AUSTRALIAN
COMPUTER
MUSEUM
SOCIETY Inc.

ACMS NEWSLETTER
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Home at Last

The ACMS has a home at last, at 9 West St in the Sydney suburb of Croydon. Vice President Adrian Franulovich spotted it and was able to pick it up with a very good deal. It is 415 m², which is a lot of space. That includes 50 m² of office type area.

The location is also excellent, just off Parramatta Road. It's about 1km from Croydon and Ashfield railway stations, and there are buses along Parramatta Rd. It is truly excellent for our purposes. We have started moving stuff in. Here's a few shots from when we got the keys.

The most important thing about our new home is that we will finally be able to get all of our equipment under one roof and properly cared for. This is an important first step to cataloguing and rationalising our collection.

It's a very big job to get all of our gear together — it is currently held in three separate storage facilities at Catherine Fields and Narellan south of Sydney and at Tumbi Umbi on the Central Coast. There's also a lot being looked after in member's homes.

Financing and managing these separate storage facilities has been very difficult. Many thanks for all the hard work being done by many members to move all the equipment to the new space.

Just getting all this gear into the new place is the priority at the moment, then we start on the rationalisation process. Some of the gear we have is of doubtful historical value or is unnecessarily duplicated, and we really need to properly catalogue it.

The new facility will also allow us to create a display space, which has been one of the key aims of the ACMS from the start. There is a lot to do, but we're looking forward to the day not too long from now when we can share our collection with anyone interested in Australia's computing heritage.

This is the most important event in the ACMS's history. It is tangible evidence of a new chapter, indeed a new era.

Introducing the Office Bearers

The ACMS Annual General Meeting, held on 15 August 2020, elected an entirely new Committee. They are a dedicated group of individuals who bring a wide range of skills and a new approach to preserving Australia's computing heritage. The new office bearers are:

Graeme Philipson, President

Graeme Philipson is recognised as Australia's leading computer historian. For over thirty years he has been a leading journalist, market researcher, and analyst of the Australian and global computer industries. He is author of the only general history of the Australian computer industry, *A Vision Splendid*, commissioned by the Australian Computer Society in 2016 to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Adrian Franulovich, Vice-President

The only thing BASIC about Adrian is his programming skills. Starting in IT and Management consulting at 14, Adrian is now one of the largest vintage Apple collectors globally and operates the most awarded Apple Service Provider chain in Australia.

Joe Lemura, Treasurer

Joe Lemura graduated from UNSW in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science and Mathematics, Information Technology. Since then he has proven himself in the corporate arena, rising to the position of CIO of a large Asia based company. Joe's enthusiasm and passion for vintage technologies are unrivalled.

Riley Tipton Perry, Secretary

Riley Perry started programming on a TRS-80 Model I Level II, and has been at it ever since. He is also passionate about music, science, skepticism (aka rationalism), and the history of computer games. He has a PhD in Computer Science.

Standing L to R: Riley Perry, Adrian Franulovich, Joe Lemura, Graeme Philipson. Seated: Jennifer Seberry

Jennifer Seberry is Patron

Former President Jennifer Seberry has accepted the position of patron of the ACMS. She is one of Australia's most distinguished computer scientists and cryptographers. She was the first person to teach cryptography at an Australian university and was the first female Professor of Computer Science in Australia. She held that position at the University of Wollongong since 1992, and has now retired from active teaching. And she loves all this old stuff!

We are honoured to have her as patron.

President's Report

Hi everybody

It gives me great pleasure to present my first President's report. Since the new Committee was elected at the AGM in August a lot has happened. We were elected on the promise of rejuvenating the Society, and what a rejuvenation there has been in just a few months. There has been incredible enthusiasm from many members who have donated their time, and in many cases substantial amounts of their money, to getting things moving.

We were confronted with two major problems: funding and space. The two are related. The ACMS was kept alive financially in the past largely by the generosity of its members, but there was never enough money to store our collection properly. We also badly needed to update and systematise the financial records and get our internal systems in order, and we needed to find a home for our equipment.

The books are up-to-date, thanks largely to the efforts of our new Treasurer **Joe Lemura** and Secretary **Riley Perry**. But that doesn't mean we have adequate funding, which is the next step. As President I will be working with the Executive Committee to make this a priority. We need to work towards the day when we can be self funding.

But the big news, which headlines this edition of the Newsletter, is our new premises, which we have grandly titled the National Computing Heritage Centre. The credit for finding this excellent space goes to Vice-President **Adrian Franulovich** who has worked tirelessly to get the ACMS moving again. Adrian is a successful entrepreneur and has provided financial help in funding the new premises.

There are many people I'd like to thank for helping us get things moving again. We have established an informal working group, which besides the Executive Committee also includes:

Sean McNamara: Powerhouse who can do seemingly anything. Lots of work getting the email and related systems working.

Sebastian Boell: Heaps of work, made more effective by his Teutonic efficiency, on the Collections strategy and related matters. A real voice of reason.

Tennyson Delarosa: Assisting in transfer and history of the former committees and tireless volunteer.

Tasman France: The quiet achiever. You never know he's there but he always is.

Murray Irwin: Has taken on the important task of getting the membership records in order.

Special thanks to former committee members **John Webster** and **John Geremin** for their help in easing the way forward.

Thanks all. We are very optimistic about the future. In the wonderful words of Winston Churchill, It is not the end, it is not even the beginning of the end, but it is the end of the beginning.

Graeme Philipson., President

GoFund the ACMS!

The ACMS has launched a GoFundMe page to accept donations from supporters. The immediate target is $5,000. At the time of writing we are approaching $2,000.

Every little bit helps, as the man said when he peed into the ocean. To donate, press the big green button. Thanks!

ACMS GoFundMe page

ACMS in the News

The Australian Computer Museum Society has held its Annual General Meeting, at which the entire management committee was replaced.

New President is iTWire Associate Editor Graeme Philipson, who was founding President when the Society was formed in 1994. "I left after a few years because I thought there was too much hoarding and too little collecting," he said. "But now there's many enthusiastic new members and they asked me to return."

The other new office bearers are Adrian Franulovich (Vice President), Joe Lemura (Treasurer) and Riley Perry (Secretary). Former President, distinguished IT academic Professor Jennifer Seberry, is now patron of the Society. Long-time President John Deane died in May of this year. He was one of the inventors of WiFi during his time at CSIRO and a prolific historian of early Australian computing.

Deane was one of the 'three Johns' who were the mainstay of the society for many years. The others are outgoing Treasurer John Geremin and outgoing Acting Secretary John Webster, both of whom declined to stand again for the management committee. "Time for new blood," said Webster.

The new management committee has much to do. Philipson said his top priorities were to regularise the society's finances and do a proper inventory the vast amount of equipment it has collected over the years.

"Storage of this gear has always been a major problem," he said. "Not all of it is of historic value and it needs to be rationalised. We also need better storage space some of the hardware has deteriorated from not being well stored.

"I'm incredibly impressed with many of the new members. They are very dedicated to preserving Australia's impressive computing heritage. There are many different organisations and individuals with the same aims, and we look forward to working with them."

Earlier this year Philipson, a long-time computer journalist and historian, was commissioned by the Pearcey Foundation to write a definitive history of the computer industry in Australia. In 2017 he wrote a short history of Australian computing for the Australian Computer Society, but during research for it became very aware of how much more needs to be covered.

About the ACMS

The Australian Computer Museum Society was established in 1994 to preserve and exhibit the artefacts of computing history in Australia. That means not only the computers, but also the documentation, software, and peripherals – back to the very beginning!

One of our significant ongoing initiatives is to record the histories of people and organisations that pioneered, used and developed computing equipment and associated technologies in Australia.

Our mission is to educate Australians about the history of information technology, which today permeates every aspect of our daily lives. We do this in a number of ways. We develop online reference materials and podcasts. We produce articles for magazines and websites. We write booklets and monographs. And we are working towards the public exhibition of representative artefacts.

There is much more to do. We plan to initiate educational classes for schools and interested members of the public. We are reaching out to like-minded individuals and organisations in Australia and internationally. We are building a catalogue and a virtual museum.

Recently ACMS has been rejuvenated with the influx of many passionate and talented individuals dedicated to the success of the organisation and its aims. We invite you to join us.