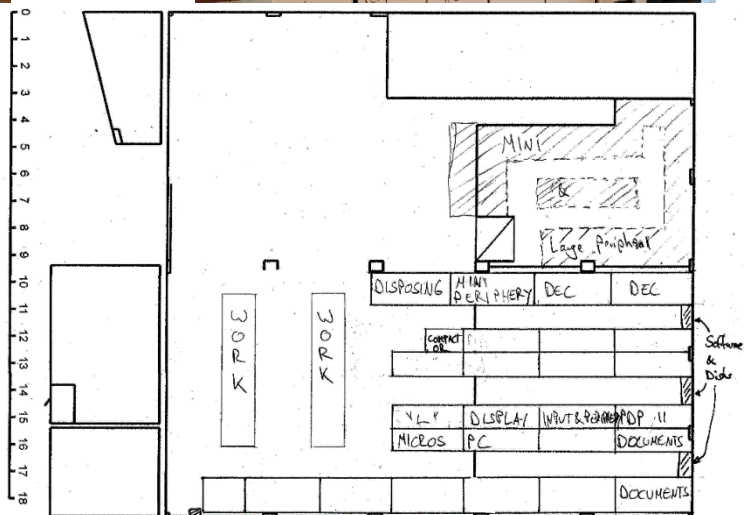
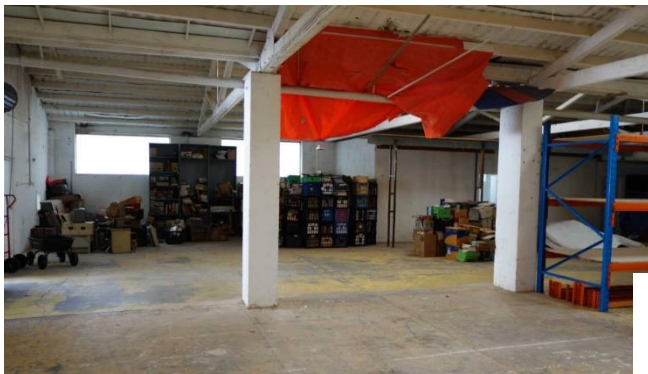




New HQ at West St takes shape

Merry Christmas from all of us. Our special present to ourselves is our new headquarters at 9 West Street in Sydney suburb of Croydon. There has been much activity these last two months. Racking has been erected and most of our collection has been moved in. The easiest way to show you what we have been doing is a few pictures:



Call for volunteers (and BBQ)

All ACMS members and friends are invited to help us load equipment at Catherine Fields on Saturday 12 December. You are also very welcome to help us unload equipment at West St and work on storage. At 6:00 pm we will down tools and have a barbeque.

All members and friends and their partners are invited. Come and lend a helping hand and have a look!

We will supply: Sausages and bread rolls and onions and barbeque sauce and stuff.

You need to bring: Drinks and any extra food beyond these basics.

We hope to see you there!

RSVP to info@acms.org.au or call Graeme Philipson 0418 609 307

ACMS Patron Jennifer Seberry is 2020 Pearcey Medallist

Microbee's Owen Hill also honoured

Professor Jennifer Seberry, ACMS Patron and Immediate Past President, has been announced winner of the 2020 Pearcey Medal. The Medal has been awarded annually since 1998 to 'recognise a distinguished lifetime achievement and contribution to the development and growth of the ICT industry in Australia'. This year's Pearcey Awards were held virtually via Zoom.



Professor Seberry is regarded as [the mother of Cryptography in Australia](#) and has had a long and distinguished academic career. She was the first female Professor in Computer Science in Australia when she was appointed the Head of Computer Science in 1987 at the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) in Canberra. In 1989 she led the team which designed the LOKI family of encryption algorithms, which are fundamental building blocks in contemporary global cryptography standards.

She has worked in the Departments of Computer Science at the University of Sydney and many international academic institutions in the US, UK and India. She convened and spoke at many international conferences and has chaired many committees. This included becoming a director of the International Association for Cryptologic Research from 1990 to 1992. She was the only Australian elected as a Fellow of this association in 2012 for her 'outstanding contributions to research and education in cryptologic research and education and for fostering the Australian Research Community'.

Professor Seberry joined the University of Wollongong in 1992, where she established the Centre for Computer Security Research. She was admitted as an Emeritus Professor of the University of Wollongong in July 2015. She is also patron of and immediate Past President of the Australian Computer Museum Society.

Inducted to the Pearcey Hall of Fame was Microbee founder Owen Hill. Many ACMS members remain Microbee fanatics. It was Australia's most successful homegrown PC.

Owen Hill founded Applied Technology in 1975 as an electronics components and electronics kits distributor. He designed the Microbee, the first commercially marketed Australian PC. The first 1000 Microbees were sold in kit form in 1982, before entering the market as a fully formed product competing directly with the IBM PC and the Apple II.

By 1987 more than 3000 Australian schools were using Microbee computers and the Microbee had been adopted as the national standard in Swedish schools. Applied Technology listed on the ASX in 1985 and the Microbee reached a peak of 11% of the Australian market and had significant international sales in Asia, Scandinavia and Russia (with a Cyrillic keyboard when Apple was still English only).



Owen Hill in 1986

Struggling to compete with the cost and production scale of the IBM PC and with the application support for the Apple II in the school markets, the company wound up in 1990. In total, more than 70,000 Microbee computers were sold worldwide, placing Australia squarely at the forefront of technology development for PCs globally.

ACMS Collection Guidelines

Overview by ACMS Collections Manager Sebastian Boell on the revamped collections policy

Since September the collections and curation team have worked on developing structure and guidelines for managing the extensive collection of artefacts held by the ACMS. Artefacts include information and communication technologies (e.g. minicomputers, PCs, screens, input and output equipment) and digital storage media (e.g. tapes, and disks).

We need to be guided by collection management principles that provide clear criteria for what artefacts the ACMS seeks to collect. This will guide what items will be admitted into the collection and what criteria are applied for determining if artefacts are surplus to the collection. Surplus artefacts may be accepted if they can be used to promote the museum or raise funds to support the ACMS.

We welcome your feedback on the following points from our members. Please email us at collection@acms.org.au

What we collect

Our collection has a distinctive Australian focus and includes items such as:

1. **Devices built or designed in Australia** (e.g. Hartley, Eracom, Microbee).
2. **Software written in Australia** (e.g. SSG Software, Melbourne House).
3. Hardware and software **rebadged/rebranded for Australia** (e.g. Dick Smith System 80, Ozisoft Sierra).
4. Devices and **items that have an important Australian story attached** to it for their design and use (e.g. Floating point calculation cards for PDP-11 designed by an Australian working at DEC).
5. Hardware **required for running Australian software** (e.g. C64 to run the 1982 game 'The Hobbit' released by Melbourne House – see picture).
6. Hardware and other artefacts **of general significant importance to the history of computing** (e.g. Apple II, IBM 1401, UNIVAC).
7. Original packaging and other **items associated with 1-6**.
8. Relevant memorabilia and items associated with the history of computing in Australia (e.g. IBM sign from George St.).



Australian software – The C64 'Hobbit' game from 1982

What we don't collect

- **Items in bad condition** (e.g. in need of serious restoration or repair) unless they are apparently of exceptional importance and value to the history of computing in Australia.
- **Duplicates and triplicates of items that we already have** in our collection, unless there is an actual and immediate need for having such an item or if these items are of apparent value (e.g. important spare parts for a restoration project; potential to be sold or used in promotions to support the ACMS).

Anything else?

Do you have a point of sale system, an Australian made computer aided manufacturing device or another item you believe is of interest to us? We are interested to learn more. Please contact us at collection@acms.org.au

ACMS Visit to Strategic Studies Group

Riley Perry building the Games Collection

Recently ACMS President Adrian Franulovich, Secretary Riley Perry and member Michael Mulhern visited Roger Keating and Gregor Whiley and of Strategic Studies Group, one of Australia's first game development companies. SSG has loaned the ACMS mint condition versions of their games and even some original artwork.

Riley is working with a number of people in the industry to build a comprehensive list of all games ever written in Australia. "We're up to about 1,200 so far," he says. We intend to collect them all!

"I have bought physical copies of about 50 of them online so far, and probably have about 20 more in my personal collection of 1,000 or so at my place, which I haven't gone through yet matching them to the list.

"In total we are already at around 10% of the games ... only a thousand or so to go. As I already have around 1000 boxed games in shelves at my place for my personal collection im confident we can have 1200 displayed at Croydon in a non cluttered display."



Happy Gamers. (L to R) Riley Perry, Joyce and Roger Keating, Adrian Franulovich, Gregor Whiley, Michael Mulhern

GoFund the ACMS!

The ACMS has launched a GoFundMe page to accept donations from supporters. The immediate target is \$5K. At the time of writing we are approaching \$3K.

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](#)

Book Review

'The IT Girl: 50 years as a woman working in the Information Technology industry' by Ann Moffatt

Long time ACMS member Ann Moffatt has published her memoirs. They were edited and published by ACMS President Graeme Philipson, this review is by the Pearcey Foundation's Peter Thorne.

This is a remarkable book. It is frank, insightful and at times hard hitting. It traces the life, loves and career path, in UK and Australia, of a courageous and very competent woman from the earliest days of the computer age, through to the current times.

It reminds us of the discriminatory, and at times downright predatory, behaviour that women were expected to endure in the workplace and in wider society, and the toughness required to combat it. And how slowly things have changed.

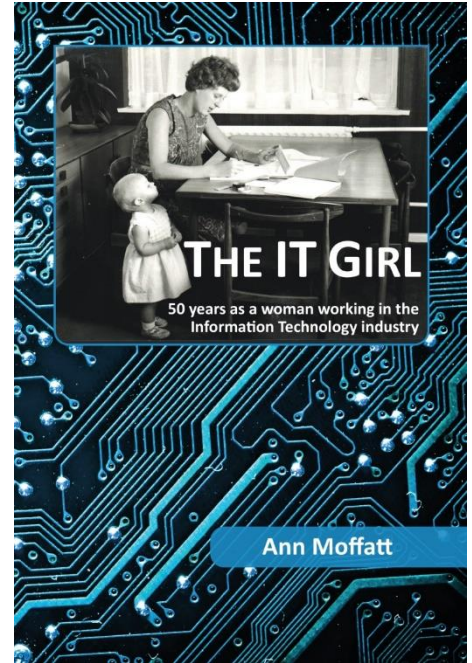
Underpinning the narrative is the evolution of the technology from mechanical calculators and slide rule, through the cumbersome vacuum-tube based computers of the first generation, to cloud based computing. We see close up, the rise and fall of IT companies now almost forgotten but which were, at one time, household names.

Along the way, Ann Moffatt takes the reader inside major corporations such as AMP and ASX as they struggled to develop the major IT systems which are core to their operation. The strategies adopted, the pitfalls, and the lessons learned from managing these projects, and coping with the inevitable corporate politics that they generate, are as relevant today as ever.

Very readable – buy it and recommend it to your friends and colleagues.

Dr Peter Thorne AM
The Pearcey Foundation

Available on Amazon Kindle and in print from <https://booksonlineaustralia.com.au>



ACMS Donors

Gary Jackson and TechnologyOne



Gary Jackson

The ACMS is pleased to announce two major donors, one personal and one corporate. The personal donor is Gary Jackson, one of the best-known individuals in the Australian computer industry. He was formerly head of Microsoft and Cisco in Australia and the region, and was a major force in the widespread introduction of minicomputers to Australia when he worked with Lionel Singer and Prime in the 1970s and 1980s. He also gave this year's oration at the Max Burnet old-timers lunch. His generous donation is a personal one.

We have also received a corporate donation from Brisbane based TechnologyOne, Australia's largest financial software company. Founded in 1987 by Adrian DiMarco, TechnologyOne is a billion dollar company with offices around the world

We thank them both for their donations.

President's Report

Hi everybody

Compliments of the Season. I'm sure we're all looking forward to the new year. 2020 will always be remembered as the year of the COVID-19 pandemic and all the disruption it caused to our personal and professional lives.

But it was a good year for the Australian Computer Museum Society. It saw the injection of new blood into the organisation and the election at the Annual General Meeting of an all-new Committee. I had the good fortune of being elected President. But the real advance was the establishment of a new home, where we can consolidate all of our activities under one roof and set up displays.

On a personal front, my work on writing and researching a new history of the Australian computer industry proceeds apace. This work was commissioned by the Pearcey Foundation (<https://pearcey.org.au> with whom we have established a strong working relationship. Interest in Australia's illustrious IT heritage has never been stronger.

We continue to work on a number of fronts. We have divided our activities into four sections: Financial and Legal, Collections, Funding and Promotion, and Systems. There is good news on all fronts. In addition to finding new premises, over the last few months we have:

- Made good progress on revamping the financial accounts. While the financial report presented at the AGM was unable to be adopted, we are close to finalising revised accounts.
- Made a good start on establishing a collections policy. See the piece in this issue of the newsletter by Sebastian Boell.
- Received substantial individual and corporate donations (see separate article). We also reached our target of \$5000 with the GoFundMe campaign, and continue to receive regular donation through Patreon.
- Revamped the membership list. We have also revamped the website, though there was still much to do here.
- Made substantial progress on consolidating all of our equipment into the new West Street location. All the documents in the previous storage facility at Narellan have been moved to West Street, and we have moved substantial equipment from Catherine Fields. We hope to clear that site and the Tumbi Umbi facility by the end of January.

Importantly, we all got to know each other a lot better. The Committee and the wider working group had not in many cases had a lot to do with each other previously. As is always the case, we are a mix of many different skill sets and personality types. The great thing is that we are very complementary and that the whole has proved to be substantially greater than the sum of parts.

Most of this work is foundational. We are building the systems and structures we need for future success. I look forward to working with you all to achieve this.

Graeme Philipson., President

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.

The ACMS Newsletter is published by the Australian Computer Museum Society Inc (ABN 89 972 080 502)

www.acms.org.au

info@acms.org.au

9 West St, Croydon 2132, Australia