



Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education Annual Report 2002

This report collects some highlights of our activities during the last calendar year together with a reminder of the Society's goals, our officers and contact information. As you will see, ASCILITE continues to maintain its healthy state and leadership in an area of some moment in tertiary education. This, our 20th year, sees our first conference held in New Zealand.

Our membership continues to rise, our financial situation is sound and the Executive are busily engaged in a number of initiatives. Our conferences continue to function well as a place of exchange and the Australian Journal of Educational Technology also flourishes.

This all requires energetic people to help it succeed. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of the Executive, our Secretariat and our creative conference committees. Plus, there's also the much-appreciated flow of ideas and support from our wider membership! Thank you *all* for your continued support.

Helen Carter
President

Membership and Services

In November 2002 our membership reached 520, with membership rising daily due to Conference registration benefits. New memberships this year account for over 150 members. This year also saw our largest group membership of over 20 members from RMIT University.

A number of initiatives have been undertaken throughout the year:

- Collaboration visit from the Association for Learning Technology (UK) and SURF (Netherlands)
- Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Association for Learning Technology (UK)
- 20 Years of ASCILITE Project initiated by Rod Sims and sponsored by ASCILITE
- Redesign of the ASCILITE website
- ASCILITE Award categories extended
- New Direction for Regional Activities to be launched in 2003

Finances

ASCILITE continues to maintain a very healthy financial situation. Last year's conference in Melbourne returned a healthy profit of \$40,000 to the Society. For the financial year 2001 to 2002, the Society had an operating surplus of about \$28,000. The Society also has reserves of over \$90,000. Our major expenses were the Secretariat, loss from the 2000 Conference, AJET and Executive meetings. A complete set of audited accounts will be presented and available at the Annual General Meeting in Auckland, New Zealand and later from the Secretariat in Wollongong.

Conferences

The Society is grateful to the 2001 conference committee for their hard work in organising the conference at The University of Melbourne. The 2002 Annual Conference in New Zealand is shaping up to be a success and the 2003 Annual Conference in Adelaide is already well on the way with planning. Over 300 delegates from 14 different countries will attend ASCILITE 2002 at UNITEC in Auckland. The theme for the conference is *winds of change in a sea of learning: charting the course of digital education*. One of the main ways of fostering our work is through collaboration, whether this is between students, teachers, institutions or internationally. By coming together we can reassess the impact of technology on education and look out towards the new possibilities for the use of emerging technologies. This year's conference has 78 full and 32 concise papers, all of which have been double-blind refereed.

ASCILITE Awards

Thanks to entrants in recent awards as well as to the judging panels. The awards are one of our strategies to both acknowledge some of our members great work, and to get some useful publicity.

Winners for 2001 were:

Best CD-ROM Project	An Ocean in the Classroom, Roisin O'Reilly, James Cook University
Best Web Project	Mekong e-Sim, Robert McLaughlan, UTS and Holger Maier, Adelaide University
Highly Commended (Web)	The Virtual Shopping Mall, Bob Ivison, University of Melbourne and University of Auckland

The Award Categories for ASCILITE 2002, sponsored by Apple Computers NZ, are: Digital Teaching Moment Award; Award for Best Software Project; Award for Best Web Project and; Award for Best Web Project (Delivered within a Learning Management System). Winners will be announced at the 2003 Conference closing ceremony.

Regional Activities

ALT/SURF Study Tour

A group from the Association for Learning Technology (UK) and SURF (Netherlands) visited Australia, with a view to establishing future collaborations. They arrived in Sydney on March 11th and spent time with the ASCILITE executive and visiting local institutions. Smaller groups travelled to country NSW, Perth or Brisbane and then met up again in Melbourne to visit institutions there. This was a great opportunity for ASCILITE to collaborate with related professional organisations.

Memorandum of Understanding with ALT

On 1 May 2002, ALT, the Association for Learning Technology (UK), and ASCILITE signed an agreement to collaborate in furthering the development of ICT in tertiary education. The Memorandum of Understanding describes the partners' mutual wish to strive for closer co-operation in activities to promote ICT innovation in education in the UK and Australasia.

AJET

A new AJET Editorial Board was announced in 2002, with Catherine McLoughlin nominated as the new Editor. The new group are running smoothly. A steady trickle of papers is being submitted and calls for submissions are now being advertised more widely in the USA and Europe. The last issue of 2002 reflects this international flavour. All issues were out on time this year and issue 2 broke the record for size! Plans for 2003 are in place, with a best papers from the ASCILITE conference issue, a special issue on learning communities and a final issue as usual.

Newsletter

Newsletters were circulated in April, June, September and December. Lead articles this year have been by Assoc. Prof. Tony Koppi, reporting on a recent trial quality audit at UNSW and its effect upon ICT initiatives; Robert McLaughlan, presenting his ASCILITE Award winning roleplay-simulation 'Mekong e-Sim' and Rhonda Riachi reflecting on the visit this year to Australia by a study group from ALT (UK) and SURF (Netherlands). A Special 20th Anniversary edition 'Memory Lane' On Ramp to the Ascilite Superhighway was released in December.

About ASCILITE

ASCILITE is a society for those involved in higher education, especially computer-facilitated learning and educational interactive multimedia. It provides a forum to stimulate discussion of relevant issues in the educational use of technology, as well as promoting research and evaluation. ASCILITE also promotes co-operation and liaison with other groups and organisations, which have complementary aims.

Enquiries about membership may be directed to: ASCILITE Secretariat, c/- CEDIR, University of Wollongong, WOLLONGONG 2522. Phone 02-4221 4895 or email info@ascilite.org.au

Communication

- The **Annual Report** provides a summary of the executive and administrative activities and a financial summary for the calendar year.
- The **Australian Journal of Educational Technology** is produced three times a year and is available free to financial members of ASCILITE. It is a refereed journal, which publishes high quality articles in the area of education and technology. It is also available on the web at www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/.
- The **ASCILITE Newsletter** is published electronically three times a year and provides discussion on more topical issues.
- ASCILITE also maintains a number of **listservers** for communicating with members. A general list (ascilite-general@vcs.ascilite.org.au), which is moderated, provides administrative and executive information to members, as well as alerting members to current conferences, positions vacant and similar.

Executive Members

President Helen Carter University of Wollongong	Secretariat Tina Geist University of Wollongong
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Vice-President Cathy Gunn University of Auckland	Treasurer Russell Pennell University of Wollongong
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Committee

Mike Fardon, University of Western Australia
Tony Gilding, Monash University
Mike Keppell, University of Melbourne
Gerry Lefoe, University of Wollongong
Meg O'Reilly, Southern Cross University
Matthew Riddle, University of Melbourne

Seconded

Allan Christie, NetSpot Pty Ltd, South Australia
Craig Zimitat, Griffith University

Further information about the Society is available from the ASCILITE web site: www.ascilite.org.au