

## 2006 annual report of the Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education



It has been an interesting and challenging year since I reported plans for a strategic planning session and changes to the role of the ascilite Secretariat at the 2005 AGM. I am pleased to report good progress on both fronts. The strategic planning meeting in March allowed the committee to focus on medium to long-term goals for ascilite, i.e:

- Increased focus on promoting the research agenda;
- Updating the technology and information systems used by the society;
- Development of strategic relationships;
- Introduction of sponsorship and institutional membership schemes.

I welcome Julie Sikora and her Admin Team from CEDIR at University of Wollongong to the Executive. A Service Level Agreement is being negotiated to replace the part time Secretariat appointment. This addresses the need for continuity across a variety of support roles for an expanding portfolio of services to members. Negotiations are in progress with Wollongong's legal advisors, and the Society has begun to benefit from having Julie as a proactive member of the Executive Committee. But even positive change comes at a cost, and it is with regret that I advise members that Robyn Debbes stops work with ascilite at the end of 2006. On behalf of the Executive Committee and members, I thank Robyn for many years of good service, and wish her well in the chosen path of her future career.

The new arrangement also comes at a cost in dollar terms, though this investment is necessary to ensure consistency of service and support. A new initiative in 2006 is designed to offset this increased expenditure; development of corporate sponsorship and institutional membership schemes. Details of these schemes are under discussion, and will be posted on the ascilite website. Our aim is to be prudent about sponsorship and to use this opportunity to form strategic alliances that will benefit ascilite members. Comments and suggestions on these schemes are welcome.

Unfortunately, Jeremy Williams, the Executive member responsible for driving this initiative, is not standing for reelection this year because work is taking him to a new location. That, and the unexpected resignation of Treasurer Craig Zimitat leaves vacancies on the Executive Committee that will be filled at the AGM. On behalf of the Committee, I wish to thank both Craig and Jeremy for their valuable contributions to ascilite over the past years.

### Executive portfolio

Ongoing initiatives in 2006 also warrant major thanks to the Executive members concerned, particularly because circumstances don't always make it easy to sustain commitment to voluntary roles on the Executive. These initiatives are:

- Community Mentoring Programme;
- Campus Reps;
- Research agenda and journal;
- Newsletter;
- New researcher grant;
- Ascilite awards.

A special initiative in 2006 has been participation by members of the ascilite Executive in the Carrick Institute's Resource Identification Network Project. This project also involves Education.AU and ACODE and is focused on development of The Carrick Exchange. A proposal for participation in phase two of the project is under development, with the rationale of potential benefits to all members of the higher educational community, including ascilite members.

### Conferences

The major event of the year continues to be the annual conference, and this year we have around 380 delegates gathered in the stunning surrounds of the Sydney Music Conservatorium to engage with a range of sessions around the theme of "Who's Learning, Whose Technology." Next year we will venture off-shore to Singapore, and in 2008 return again to Australia, this time to Melbourne.

Cathy Gunn, Ascilite President