



## **Annual Report, 2007**

### **Conference Updates**

2007

Ascilite welcomed members, speakers and guests to the Society's first conference to be held outside Australasia in 24 years, and expressed thanks to the Conference Committee from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore for hosting the event. The team brought together a high quality, stimulating and varied program as well as extending a warm hospitable welcome to the excellent facilities offered on the campus and by the beautiful island nation. The choice of location proved to be popular as an overall total of more than 190 submissions were received from 18 countries.

2008

The 25<sup>th</sup> annual conference will be hosted by Deakin University at the Burwood Campus in Melbourne. The committee has already met and plans for the event are in progress. A preview on the theme "Hello! Where are you in the landscape of educational technology" was shown at the conclusion of the 2007 program. The Executive is grateful for the willingness of these committees to take on the significant responsibility of organizing the conference that is, for many of our members as well as those in voluntary roles with the Executive, a highlight at the end of a busy, southern hemisphere academic year.

2009 and beyond

A call for proposals for the 2009 conference is open. All members are invited to consider whether a local committee in their area may be interested in making a submission. The South Island in New Zealand and various parts of Australia offer good prospects to add variety to the list of attractive conference locations. Contact the Secretariat or check the website for further details of conference proposal submission requirements.

### **Secretariat Agreement**

2007 was the first full year of working with a Service Agreement with CEDIR at the University of Wollongong rather than employing an individual to manage Society affairs. The experience has been a valuable one, and the terms of the arrangement remain under review. To reiterate, the reasons for moving to this arrangement were a request to relocate the Secretariat from CEDIR, who have been our host for more than 10 years; an attempt to manage the workload of voluntary executive members arising from the growing portfolio of member services; the aim to provide continuity of professional standards when Executive members change, and finally to promote Ascilite to institutional members and sponsors. Members are welcome to comment on the current arrangement.

## **Membership**

It is also the first year Ascilite has offered a three-year discounted membership scheme. The early signs are positive, as a number of renewing members have taken up this option, which is designed to improve financial stability for the Society and to safeguard against future increases for individual members. All members are encouraged to take up the option for the benefit of themselves and the Society. The possibility of conducting another members' survey is under discussion by the Executive. It is some time since we responded to requests for an increased level of service in return for subscriptions and we would like to gauge the response from members.

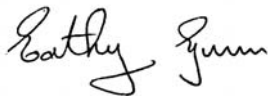
## **Executive Portfolios**

The Ascilite Awards, Community Mentoring, Ascilite Research Grant and Campus Reps programs all featured in prominent sessions at the conference. All are running smoothly, and the level of interest and participation supports the assumption that these services are of interest to, and appreciated by our members.

The Sponsorship portfolio deserves special mention as it is proposed to seek sponsors for Ascilite beyond the limits of the annual conference. This year, Blackboard has generously offered sponsorship for an Early Career Research Grant. Further interest from relevant organizations is invited, and a Sponsorship Brochure is available from the Secretariat.

Ascilite's invited participation in the Carrick Exchange Project is also worthy of special mention. A group comprising Executive members, support staff and Ascilite members has contributed to the concept and design specification for this leading edge online community space. The project, led by Executive members Gerry Lefoe and Meg O'Reilly was a considerable though ultimately rewarding task. The outcomes should offer benefits to the Australian tertiary sector and interested observers in years to come.

I take this opportunity to thank all continuing and retiring Executive members, our Singapore hosts and Conference Committee, staff at CEDIR and all others who have contributed to another successful year for Ascilite in 2007.



Dr Cathy Gunn, President