PRESIDENT’S REPORT

This is my final column as President of ACCE. After twenty years as a professional educator, the last ten in educational media production, I have made a move recently into the private sector managing a new Australian multimedia company. This career change has caused me to rearrange many elements of my professional life including my participation at an executive level of our professional society.

The ACCE Board is of necessity non-aligned in a commercial sense, and although we work closely with industry to ensure successful event and activity sponsorship and participation, we are always careful to ensure there are no potential conflict of interest situations arising that may affect our judgement. It is for this reason that I reluctantly chose not to re-nominate for either my state ACCE representative position or the ACCE Presidency.

Over the years, wearing both my state and national hats, I have encouraged all members to participate as fully as they are able in the activities of their professional associations. To serve at a committee level is time consuming but also very rewarding. I think that sometimes we take for granted the services that are provided for us — the conferences that roll around each year like clockwork, or the newsletter and journal that just turn up in the mail. These things happen because volunteers make them happen. So, one last time — please get involved. Start small and work on your newsletter team, be part of a conference planning committee or simply help out at a workshop. Maybe those of you working in non-metropolitan areas can help organise your colleagues locally and get involved in chapter activities. Whatever the case you will find that active involvement brings you closer to fellow professionals who share your commitment and interests. I can honestly say that my years working at committee and executive level have been the most rewarding of my career.

In closing I would like to make a few observations about information technology and telecommunications (IT&T) use in education. We are on the cusp of some momentous happenings in IT&T. The convergence of television, computers and telephony is creating a new generation of technology that has the potential to change most aspects of our lives. As educators we must take up the challenge of this technology and define the uses we wish to put it to. Don’t wait for the media barons to do it for you.

I know the temptation is to keep saying that the new wave of technology is beyond the means of schools — that we will never see broadband in the classroom. But look at what has happened with multimedia and internet in the past year. Set-top and hand-held computing technology coupled with broadband and telecommunications access will be the backbone of our ‘school’ IT&T infrastructure as we see in the new millennium. Be proactive and prepare yourselves and your students.

Although I am relinquishing my executive positions I am proud to remain a general member of both my state organisation and ACCE. I look forward to participating in the future of our organisations with you.

CODE OF ETHICS

Values and Ideals Subscribed to by a member of the Australian Computer Society

1. Priorities
   I will serve the interests of my clients and employers, my employees and students, and the community generally, as matters of no less priority than the interests of myself and my colleagues.

2. Competence
   I will work diligently and competently for my clients and employers.

3. Honesty
   I will be honest in my representation of skills, knowledge, services and products.

4. Social Implications
   I will strive to enhance the quality of work of those affected by my work.

5. Professional Development
   I will enhance my own professional knowledge and skills and those of my colleagues, employees and students.

6. Computing Profession
   I will enhance the integrity of the Computing Profession and the respect of its members for each other.