The ACCE is a formally constituted and incorporated organisation which comprises all computer education groups of the state and territories and the Australian Computer Society. Each state or territory CEG is represented on the Board of the Council. The representative is usually the president of the CEG. The members of the Board are:

- Ian Webb (ACT Computer Education Group) - President
- Arna Wesley (NSW Computer Education Group) - Secretary
- Lindsay Cook
- Garry Kirby (Computer Education Group of Qld)
- Lorraine Kershaw (Educational Computing Association of WA)
- Owen Burgan (Computer Educators Association of the NT)
- Ron Day (Computers in Education Group of SA)
- Penny Cocker (Computer Education Group of Tas)
- Arthur Tattnell (Computer Education Group of Vic)
- Sandra Wills (Australian Computer Society)

The Board meets twice a year - usually in May and at the national conference.

The ACCE was formed to take up the issue of computers in education at the national level, to complement and assist the operations of the individual state organisations, to provide a national voice on relevant issues and to facilitate the exchange and dissemination of information and ideas across Australia.

The major activities of the ACCE have been the institution of the Australian Computers in Education Conference (ACEC) and the publication of this national journal Australian Educational Computing.

ACEC has been very successful. It has become a truly national event having been staged in every mainland state capital city. This success is largely due to the efforts of the host CEGs that have provided the resources to make it happen. Your support is also essential as you attend each conference as a delegate. The conference has developed a reputation as a forum for the exchange of ideas and views at the leading edge of computers in education. It has also gained a creditable reputation overseas with increasing numbers of international delegates attending, particularly from the Asia-Pacific region.

The national journal Australian Educational Computing is another major medium for the sharing of ideas across Australia. However, there have been some problems since its inception in 1986. After an excellent start, a lean period followed which saw it's publication lapse for long periods of time. Problems centred mainly on communication difficulties resulting in long publication delays.

However, the Board put into place a strategy to overcome these problems thus ensuring the integrity of the journal and regularity of publication. As of late last year state CEGs can contract to produce and publish a minimum of two issues. Currently the CEGSA has that contract which encompasses the 1988 issue already published earlier this year and two 1989 issues. ACCE has also appointed a Publications Coordinator to oversee journal production. Despite a range of problems I believe the quality and integrity of the journal have been maintained and that it provides a valuable reference and source of ideas and research findings. You can support the journal by submitting articles for publication.

Although the conference and the journal are the most visible activities, many other benefits flow from ACCE activities. For example, ACCE has been negotiating with the International Council for Computers in Education (ICCE) to become an affiliate, thereby gaining international recognition and status. These negotiations are likely to be concluded later this year. This should ensure a better flow of information and resources to Australian computer educators. Other valuable activities of the ACCE are associated with the biannual meetings themselves. They provide an invaluable forum for the flow of ideas, the benefits of which are frequently acted upon by members and therefore flow to you as CEG members. An example of this is the sharing of international speakers. The visit of Steve Ocko last year was a good example of how the ACCE coordinated his visit to almost every state in Australia.

With the future of the national conference and the journal now secure, the Council is currently considering what other directions are appropriate to best serve its members. For example, should the council take a more active role politically - as a national lobby to support and promote the ideals of effective computer use in schools?

To assist in guiding future directions the Board is currently undertaking, with the assistance of Garry Kirby from CEGQ, a reassessment of it’s purposes and goals with the view to developing a mission statement. This will provide a basis for future planning.

Your ongoing support has been fundamental for the viable continuation of the Council. I believe that there is a place for an effective national body and have an optimistic and positive vision for the future. I look forward to your continued support and hope to see you in Canberra.

Ian Webb
President