President's Report

Welcome to this special WCCE '90 post conference issue. I'm sure, for those who attended the World Conference you would agree that it provided a landmark in the development and use of computers in education in Australia. It was the largest world conference ever to be held with a total of 2334 delegates, including an impressive 1641 from Australia. A full breakdown of attendance is given later in this issue. Congratulations to the organisers, particularly Sandra Wills, John Hughes, Toni Downes and members of NSWCEG who contributed so much time and effort to make the conference such a success. I would also like to thank the major sponsors - Apple, Commodore, IBM and Microsoft - and thank you to all the other sponsors and trade exhibitors. The ACCE is greatly appreciative of the valuable support given by the commercial sector to computers in education.

Delegates were treated to a feast of sessions, workshops and seminars. The trade exhibition was massive providing excellent opportunities to investigate the latest in hardware and software developments. This issue of the Journal focuses on some of the conference highlights from the opening address by the Governor General to the thought provoking closing by Seymour Papert. In order to recapture some of the spirit of the conference there is included a pictorial and textual collage. I hope you find it stimulating reading.

Apart from the timetabled program at WCCE'90 there were many other informal meetings and sessions taking place. The ACCE organised two such 'Galah' sessions - these related to the possible establishment of a national forum on computers in education and a national pilot survey on the nature and role of computing teachers in secondary schools. A full report of the latter appears in this issue. My thanks to Mark Weber and Lorraine Kershaw for their hard work in getting the project up and running.

The other session involved the ACCE in inviting representatives of all state and territory education systems (government, independent and Catholic Education) to attend the meeting to explore the possibility of establishing a national forum. The meeting was well attended with many issues being discussed. There was general consensus that meetings of such a group would be beneficial and might coincide with the annual national conference. A full report will appear in a later issue.

WCCE'90 also provided opportunities to catch up with old acquaintances and make some new ones. I was able to briefly meet with Gary Bitter, President of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE - formerly ICCE) of which ACCE is an organisational affiliate. As a result of this, ACCE, with the assistance of Greg Butler from NSWCEG, is now exploring ways of international cooperation to the mutual benefit of both our memberships. Greg has previously represented ACCE at ISTE meetings in the United States and has provided a valuable go-between.

Since reporting to you in the last issue of the Journal the ACCE has been very active in a number of areas supporting and promoting the use of computers in education. Earlier this year the Australian Information Industries Association (AIIA) released a discussion paper - 'Computer Education in Schools - Towards a New Approach'. Copies of this paper were sent to all state CEGs. This was followed by a two day seminar/workshop at which the ACCE was represented. I have also met with the AIIA indicating that the ACCE is keen to be involved in any initiatives. The AIIA is currently planning the next stages of the project. A full report will be published in the next issue.

A reminder that the next annual Australian Computers in Education Conference (ACEC'91) is being held on the Gold Coast from 22 to 25 September 1991. Papers and expressions of interest are currently being called for. Details of contact are provided later in this issue.

Finally at the last ACCE Board meeting bids were received for ACEC'92 from NSWCEG and CEGV. I am pleased to announce that Victoria won the bid and that the conference will be staged in Melbourne in July 1992.

Wishing you all the best for the festive season.

Ian Webb
President