Annual Report 2020

ACS has been Australia's peak professional body for the ICT profession for more than 50 years and now boasts more than 48,000 individual members. Through our recent acquisition of data-driven associations ADMA, IAPA, D+TC and DGA, we also have relationships with more than 600 brands across Australia.

We exist to create an environment in which our members, partners and the economy can succeed. As our society and economy transition, ICT professionals have become the drivers of innovation across all sectors, delivering real, tangible results.

We're driven by what we call the 'Three Cs': we seek to increase the Capacity and Capability of Australia's technology workforce, as well as serve as a Catalyst for the innovative creation and adoption of technology. We understand that jobs growth in any modern economy comes from startups and scaleups.

We believe in the power and future of technology in Australia, and we have embarked upon a strategic plan designed to ensure that Australia is at the forefront of the global technology industry. It is vital for us to embrace change and inspire success as we harness the opportunities presented in this most vibrant of professions.

We will continue to be a voice for the global technology profession in business and government, working to ensure our members are recognised as leaders in digital transformation and at the leading edge of the fourth industrial revolution.

Inspiring success is more than just a tagline – it is what we do.

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President's Report

ACS' vision is for Australia to be a world leader in technology talent.

2019-20 was the year the ICT sector proved itself.

This year has seen massive change as the Covid-19 pandemic and associated shutdowns fundamentally changed our society and economy.

No sector or profession has been immune to the disruption caused by COVID-19. The rapid onset of the pandemic accelerated adoption of digital technologies and digital transformation. Digital skills have become increasingly more important and in demand as day-to-day work becomes even more reliant on technology. Had it not been for technology, the economic impact of the COVID-19 shutdowns would have been vastly greater.

Unfortunately, many of our members and colleagues have found themselves affected by the economic slowdown. ACS undertook steps to support those in difficulty, with a complimentary six-month membership extension and access to the Society's Employee Assistance Program.

ACS also extended to members complimentary certification of their skills. Certified Professional status gives members additional benefits, such as being recognised by Commonwealth and State Governments under the Professional Standards Scheme, additional personal protection capping liability under this scheme, and increased insurance cover under the ACS member insurance policy for those eligible.

Those moves helped to ensure members will be best placed to re-enter the sector once the COVID crisis is over. The CP or CT certification is highly regarded and will put members at an employment advantage during Australia's economic recovery.

As part of ensuring members' employability, ACS also launched its Career Platform that gives employers access to our unrivalled network of students, graduates and experienced Australian technology professionals.

Highlighting ACS' industry leadership, we released two guides to assist businesses during the shutdowns. For small businesses having to adjust to working from home during the COVID-19 crisis, '10 Tips for Small Business' provided a clear and comprehensive guide to smaller ventures moving from the office to the home study, while the 'Cyber Security Guide for Business' provided guidance on the critical area of cyber security to assist enterprises of all sizes during the crisis.

Looking beyond the COVID-19 crisis, technology will continue to underpin Australia's progress and ACS is driving leadership in fields as diverse as Data Sharing, Artificial Intelligence, the Internet of Things, Blockchain, Cyber Security and Smart Cities.

I'd like to thank the TAB and the technical committees for their hard work in these fields and assure that, as President, my goal is to ensure the impact of these efforts are amplified.

Governance update

A major event for ACS during the year was a delay in the move to becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee. Congress initially approved the change in order to bring ACS into line with similar professional organisations and to modernise the Society's governance.

During the coming year we will seek to finalise the move in a way that ensures members' concerns are addressed while putting the governing structures on a more solid footing suited to today's dynamic technology and business environment.

Ultimately, members want to be part of an organisation they respect, believe in, and that delivers value for them.

What comes next is likely to be an exciting chapter of our history – continuing to put ACS at the heart of a community focused on issues of national significance.

The prize for Australia is the opportunity to more fully shape our own future, facilitate creation of new and exciting business opportunities, to help secure and safeguard Australia against challenges of the future digital world, all while protecting the rights and the sensitive, personal information associated with each of us as individuals.

The prize for ACS is being at the heart of an important and trusted community, creating value and helping drive the significance of the Society.

I thank all members for the opportunity to lead ACS and hope we can all work towards this exciting future together.

Dr Ian Oppermann
FACS CP
ACS President

Treasurer's Report

❝❝ A strong financial footing coupled with ACS being recognised as the leading voice of the technology sector mean we are well placed to deal with a challenging 2020/21. ❞❞

FY2019/20 was an unprecedented year of challenges as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic were felt across the economy. ACS and the ICT profession were not spared from the impact of the shutdowns.

Over the past few years, ACS' prudent management of assets and revenue streams has meant the Society is well positioned to weather the economic headwinds which have deeply affected many membership and not-for-profit organisations. A strong financial footing coupled with ACS being recognised as the leading voice of the technology sector mean we are well placed to deal with a challenging 2020/21.

This is my fourth financial report and I am proud to confirm that we have continued to grow our net asset base to $32.8m while achieving a surplus of $3.3m in FY2019/20.

In my opinion, the accompanying accounts give an accurate and fair view of the affairs of ACS as at 30 June 2020, and of its statement of comprehensive income for the year ending on that date, prepared in accordance with properly maintained financial records of ACS.

As always, I would like to thank the Branch Honorary Treasurers and the national finance team for their support over the past few years in finalising our financial consolidation efforts. I would like to extend thanks to the Management Committee, Branch Executive Committees and broader elected representatives for their passion and focus on meeting members' expectations through creating value, contributing to growing a skilled ICT workforce, and lifting professional standards.

It is reassuring that the ACS has established a sound financial position during the past few years due to our focus on fiscal governance, nonetheless, it is incumbent on the ACS to continue to improve our transparency and members focus as we prepare the ACS to lead the ICT profession during the upcoming period where the technology sector will be an important part of Australia's economic recovery.

Arnold Wong
BSc FACS CP IP3P GAICD
ACS National Treasurer

Surplus / Deficit by Year - 2016 - 2020

Thousands $'000s

| Surplus/Deficit | 2016 $4,294 | 2017 $5,202 | 2018 $2,554 | 2019 $4,302 | 2020 $3,278 |
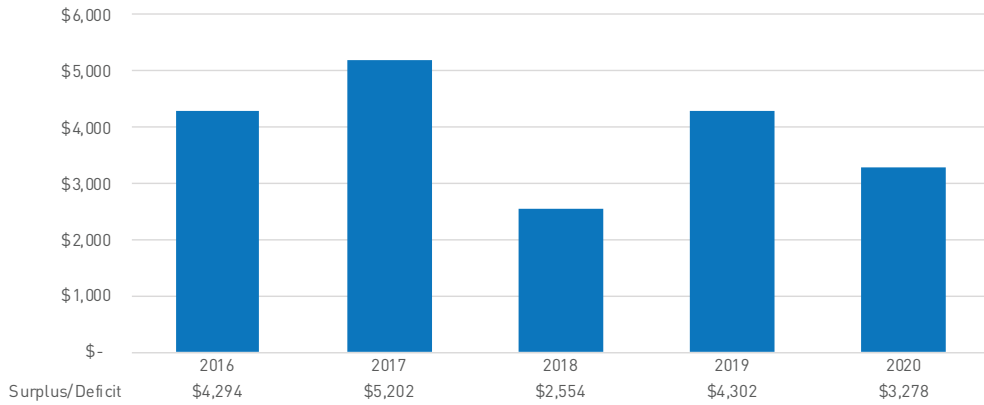
5-Year Summary	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
			$000s		
Total Income	49,797	45,187	36,631	33,543	26,779
Total Expenses	46,519	40,885	34,077	28,341	22,485
Net Surplus	3,278	4,302	2,554	5,202	4,294
Total Assets	77,115	43,104	34,448	29,606	25,109
Total Liabilities	44,278	13,545	9,191	6,903	7,609
Total Member Funds	32,837	29,559	25,257	22,703	17,500

MEMBER RESERVES ($000s)
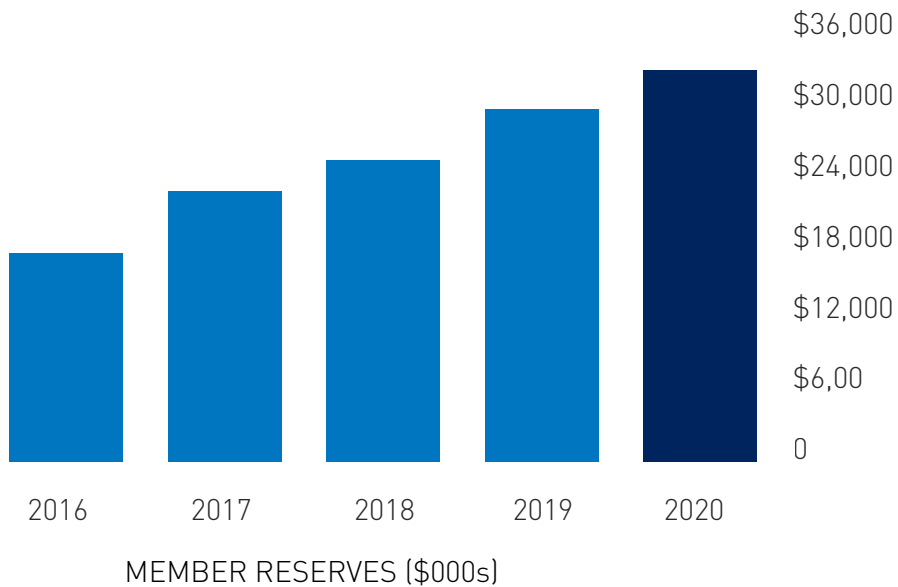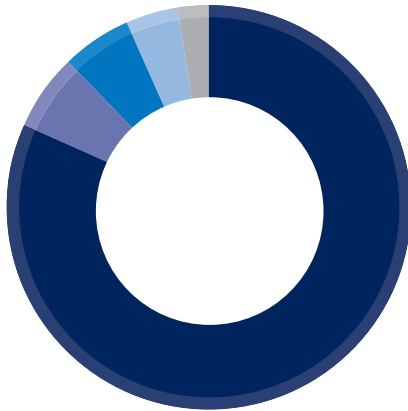
2020 REVENUE ($000s)

- ● PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS $41,666
- ● MEMBERSHIP FEES $3,223
- ● OTHER INCOME $2,801
- ● EDUCATION, PD AND CONFERENCES $2,108
- ● RESIDENCY INCOME $1,215

Summary of current financial year results

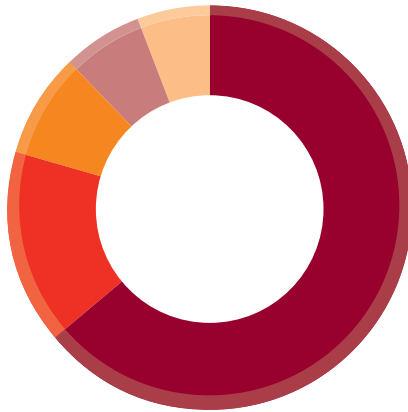| Revenue ($'000s)	2020	2019
Membership fees	3,223	2,879
Professional standards income	41,666	38,551
Education, PD and conference income	2,108	1,284
Residency income	1,215	775
Other income	1,586	1,698

2020 EXPENSES ($000s)

- ● EMPLOYEE BENEFITS $25,232
- ● DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION $6,172
- ● ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES $3,261
- ● MARKETING, PR AND PUBLICATIONS $2,531
- ● TECHNOLOGY EXPENSES $2,140

Summary of current financial year results

| Expenses ($'000s)	2020	2019
Employee benefits expense	25,232	21,569
Event and meeting expenses	1,645	2,116
Travel and accommodation	1,215	1,691
Marketing, PR and publications	2,531	4,945
Occupancy expenses	1,636	3,993
Depreciation and amortisation	6,172	675
Finance costs	1,941	444
Technology expenses	2,140	1,745
Administrative expenses	3,621	2,339
Other	387	1,367

2020 ASSETS ($000s)

- ● RIGHT OF USE ASSET $30,567
- ● INVESTMENTS $17,538
- ● CURRENT RECEIVABLES $9,023
- ● CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS $8,562
- ● PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT $5,715

Summary of current financial year results

Assets ($'000s)	2020	2019
Cash and cash equivalents	8,562	7,447
Current receivables	9,023	5,856
Investments	17,538	18,198
Current other assets	1,609	4,857
Property, plant and equipment	5,715	6,740
Right of use asset	30,657	-
Intangible assets	4,011	6
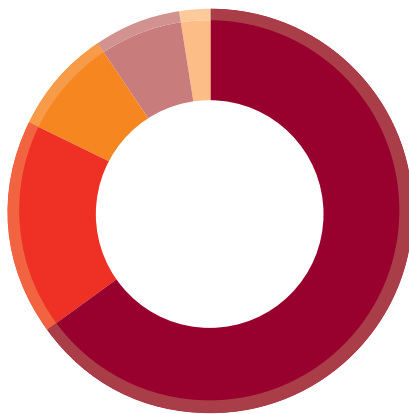
2020 LIABILITIES ($000s)

- ● NON-CURRENT LEASE LIABILITIES $28,636
- ● CURRENT PAYABLES $7,644
- ● CURRENT OTHER LIABILITIES $3,614
- ● CURRENT LEASE LIABILITIES $3,096
- ● CURRENT PROVISIONS $1,033

Summary of current financial year results

Liabilities ($'000s)	2020	2019
Current payables	7,644	8,691
Current other liabilities	3,614	4,050
Current provisions	1,033	606
Current lease liabilities	3,096	-
Non-current other liabilities	-	-
Non-current provisions	254	199
Non-current lease liabilities	28,636	-

Membership

In spite of the impact of the COVID-19 virus on the latter part of the year, ACS nonetheless had one of its best years on record for membership. During the financial year, we achieved the largest recorded growth and highest national membership for ACS in its 50-year history.

As of 30 June 2020, ACS membership had grown to 48,025, an increase of 7.24% over the previous year. More than 3,200 new members joined ACS throughout the course of the year, enjoying the many benefits that membership provides.

What's more, we saw a huge growth in the number of certified professionals among our membership throughout the course of the year. Through ACS' certification programs, the number of Certified Technologists (CTs) in Australia grew by 30%, while the number of Certified Professionals (CPs) grew by 17%.

Along with that, ACS's other services continued to be employed at a greater rate. For example, the year ended with the largest recorded increase in digital asset usage for ACS, a 230% increase from June 2019.

Due to this growth, ACS is in the best position it has ever been, with a suite of services that continue to attract new members, even in a difficult economy. It has been a fantastic year for ACS membership, and we'll be looking to continue that trend in the year ahead.

MORE THAN
3,200
NEW MEMBERS

CERTIFIED TECHNOLOGIST (CT) GROWTH OF
30%

DIGITAL ASSET USAGE UP BY
230%

CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL (CP) GROWTH OF
17%

ACS' COVID-19 Response

The COVID-19 crisis of 2020 has presented a once-in-a-century challenge for all Australians. For ACS, the priority was to help flatten the curve while supporting members and the IT profession.

To support members, ACS provided a complimentary six-month membership extension and professional certification.

Members attaining a Certified Professional status also received additional benefits, including recognition by the Commonwealth Government and state governments under the Professional Standards Scheme, additional personal liability protection, and increased insurance cover under ACS member insurance cover.

Certification ensured ACS members would be well placed to re-enter the sector as the COVID crisis passed. The CP and CT certifications are highly regarded and will put our members at an advantage once the recovery begins.

To help members find work, ACS also launched its Career Platform. This gives employers access to the society's unrivalled network of students, graduates and experienced Australian technology professionals while providing members access to career advice and employment opportunities.

As the economy moves out from the effects of the shutdown, the technical skills of ACS members will be critical to navigating the economic recovery. The Society's measures to support members, the wider sector and the community in general will help Australia recover from COVID-19's economic impact in the year ahead.

Member Events & Activities

Every year ACS runs hundreds of events for our members in all states and territories. These events range from panel and policy discussions, to educational seminars and meet-ups, to huge events like Reimagination.

ACS events include both in-person and virtual gatherings – more of the latter since the spread of COVID-19 – and ensure that the technology professionals and students that attend can make contacts and stay involved and up-to-date on issues impacting the technology industries.

Wherever you are, whatever your field or area of interest, it's likely that ACS has something tailored to your needs. Head to acs.org.au and check the events page to see and search our upcoming events by location and topic.

In the following pages, we'll walk through some of the major national events run by ACS during the course of the financial year. This is just a sampling of what we do, however – each state has its own events, and we'll look more at what the states have done, starting on page ^^51.

REIMAGINATION'19
THOUGHT LEADERS' SUMMIT
Amazing Humans, Epic Tech

Bringing together the best and brightest.

ACS' largest national event, the Reimagination Thought Leaders' Summit 2019, was held on Wednesday, 4 December 2019 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC), engaging over 2,000 attendees in a dialogue on the future of technology in Australia.

On a national stage, 25 thought leaders from across the technology industry participated in panels, keynotes and discussions covering the future of startups and venture capital in Australia, looking at data as an enabler for business growth, at reinventing the customer experience and much more.

The event started with a panel of some of Australia's most successful startup founders, who spoke about the challenges and rewards of starting a new technology business, and ended with a thought provoking keynote by Dr Jordan Nguyen, Founder and CEO of Psykinetic, on how the relationship between technology and humanity is evolving.

The ACS Reimagination Thought Leaders' Summit 2019 was followed by the ACS Digital Disruptors Awards. The awards showcase the best of Australia's tech talent leading the way in innovation, creativity and skill, and digital and service transformation. This year 52 finalists were nominated, with 13 winners selected across categories that recognised individuals, corporates, not-for-profits and startups for their contribution to Australia's ICT sector.

Partners

This event was made possible thanks to the support and engagement of our industry partners. Their contribution to the event bought new insights, highlighting different voices from across our industry. These included: the Victoria State Government, AGL, GHD Digital, Vertiv, Kinetic IT, StartupAUS, AMD, Adobe, Pendula, the University of Melbourne, Brennan IT, PMA Global, Media Smith and Sky News.

The Thought Leaders

The event featured 25 thought leaders who shared their learnings and expertise on a diverse range of topics including:

- Rockstar Aussie Founders
  - Tan Le, CEO, Emotiv
  - Stephen Phillips, CEO, Mawson
  - Emma Lo Russo, CEO, Digivizer
  - Olivia Humphrey, Executive Chairman, Kanopy
- Data as an Enabler of Business Growth
  - Trisca Scott-Branagan, Head of Marketing, Institutional, ANZ
  - Dr Ian Oppermann, NSW Chief Data Scientist and CEO, NSW Data Analytics Centre, NSW Government; and ACS Vice President
  - Dayle Stevens, Chief Data Officer, AGL
  - Kirk Wetherell, Australia Director Data Centre Solutions, Vertiv
- A Company Board
  - David Attenborough, Managing Director and CEO, Tabcorp
  - Wendy Stops, Non-Executive Director, Commonwealth Bank and Coles Group
  - Cameron McIntyre, Managing Director and CEO, Carsales.com
  - Mary-Anne Williams, Director, Innovation and Enterprise Research Lab, Centre of Artificial Intelligence
- Reimagining the Customer Experience through Technology
  - Brett Roberts, CMO, Kinetic IT
  - Suzanne Steele, Managing Director, Adobe ANZ
  - John Hampton, Senior Director, Field Engineering, AMD
  - Jessica Ellerm, CEO and Co-Founder, Zuper

- Building a Global Technology Business
  - ◦ Bridget Loudon, Founder and CEO, Expert360
  - ◦ Rob Newman, CEO, Nearmap
  - ◦ Kumar Parakala, President, GHD Digital
  - ◦ Richard White, CEO and Founder, WiseTech Global
- Venture Capital as an Enabler of High Growth for Tech Startups
  - ◦ Steve Baxter, CEO, Transition Level Investments
  - ◦ Vicky Lay, Managing Director, Artesian Investments
  - ◦ Dr Michelle Deaker, Managing Partner, OneVentures
  - ◦ Peter James, Chairman of the Macquarie Telecom Group, Nearmap and DroneShield
- Keynote: Epic Tech for Humanity
  - ◦ Dr Jordan Nguyen, Founder and CEO, Psykinetic
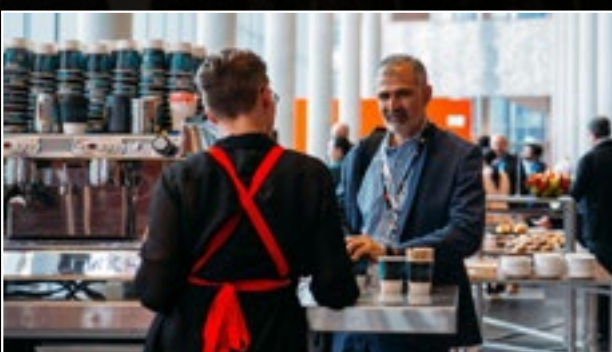
ACS DIGITAL DISRUPTORS AWARDS

Reimagination was also host to ACS' annual Digital Disruptors Awards, which recognise excellence in Australian technology, both for individuals and organisations.

It was the final step of an intensive nine-month national awards process, judged by a panel of 36 industry luminaries led by IBM's Steve Godbee.

We had a huge number of incredible candidates vying for the honours this year, and we'd like to offer our heartfelt congratulations and thanks to all the winners and other contestants.

Individual Award Winners

ICT Professional of the Year
Sheryl Frame, Director, SBE Australia, EDICT International Consultants

CXO Disruptor of the Year
Vinay Samuel, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Zetaris

Young Professional of the Year (Female)
Monique Alvis, Innovation & Design Lead, Capgemini

Young Professional of the Year (Male)
Jeremiah Mannings, Managing Data Scientist, Capgemini

Educator of the Year
Yenni Tim, Lecturer and Undergraduate Coordinator, University of New South Wales

Student of the Year
Marina Geldard, Student, University of Tasmania

Team Award Winners

Service Transformation for the Digital Consumer

    Corporate — Myriota

    Government — Noisy Guts, University of Western Australia

    Not for Profit — Alannah & Madeline Foundation

Skills Transformation of Work Teams

    Large — Edith Cowan University

    Medium — DXC Dandelion Program

    Small — University of Technology Sydney | OnePath Life

Best New Tech Platform — Sentient Hubs

ICT Professional of the Year, Sheryl Frame.

CXO Disruptor of the Year, Vinay Samuel.

Young Professional of the Year (Female), Monique Alvis.

Young Professional of the Year (Male), Jeremiah Mannings.

Educator of the Year, Yenni Tim.

Student of the Year, Marina Geldard.

Service Transformation for the Digital Consumer, Corporate, Alex Grant and David Haley of Myriota.

Service Transformation for the Digital Consumer, Government, Josephine Muir of Noisy Guts.

Service Transformation for the Digital Consumer, Not for Profit, Alannah & Madeline Foundation.

Skills Transformation of Work Teams, Large,Dr Luke Hopper of Edith Cowan University.

Skills Transformation of Work Teams, Medium, The DXC Dandelion Program.

Skills Transformation of Work Teams, Small, University of Technology Sydney and OnePath Life.

Best New Tech Platform, Sentient Hubs.

ACS Innovation Hub Docklands Launch

A new headquarters for Victoria.

The financial year saw the grand opening of a new state of the art innovation and technology hub in Melbourne's Docklands district.

Following the model established in Sydney's Barangaroo, the new innovation hub serves as a branch office for ACS Victoria, a home for the Bay City Labs startup accelerator and a collaboration space in which members and partners can meet.

The hub at 839 Collins Street was officially opened on 25 July by then ACS President Yohan Ramasundara along with Jane Garrett MLC, Victoria's Parliamentary Secretary for Jobs.

Covering more than 2,000m2 of digitally enabled floorspace, the new technology and innovation hub was purpose-built to drive the development of digital communities. It features private workspaces, 13 high-tech meeting rooms, large screens and an interactive media wall. The facilities are available to ACS members along with industry and government partners.

Equipped with the latest technology, the collaborative workspace was designed as a venue where tech professionals and businesses can come together and tackle some of the nation's pressing technology challenges, such as cyber security, personal privacy and artificial intelligence.

Over 150 technology professionals will work in the hub, and members can book its facilities from the ACS website at acs.org.au.

Yohan Ramasundara, ACS President, and Jane Garrett, Victoria's Parliamentary Secretary for Jobs, officially opening the hub.

ACS Victoria Chair Maria Markman tries out the interactive media wall.

The view overlooking Melbourne's Docklands.

The new look office meeting rooms.

The new technology hub is situated in the heart of Melbourne's business sector.

Publications

Leading the way with thought leadership reports and critical white papers.

To ensure Australia remains competitive on the global stage, ACS continued to be at the forefront of thought leadership and critical thinking publications in FY2019/20. Through the year, we produced five major publications looking at the state of the technology industry in Australia, at the impacts it might have on the national workforce, and at how we might best move to maintain both our privacy and our high standards of living in a rapidly changing world.

All the publications ACS produces are available free to download from the ACS website at acs.org.au.

ACS Australia's Digital Pulse 2019

ACS' marquee publication once again provided an annual snapshot of the state of the technology industry in Australia. Produced in conjunction with Deloitte and launched in July by Treasurer Josh Frydenberg, it revealed that technology jobs continue to grow at a very high rate in Australia, with 100,000 new jobs to be added between 2018 and 2024. It also took a deep dive into the methods and policy implications for growing Australia's digital economy, how to increase the supply of workers and skills, and paths for supercharging startups and investment in the Australian technology sector.

Privacy-Preserving Data Sharing Frameworks

In world where data is being shared in ever-increasing volumes and depth, preserving an individual's right to privacy is more critical than ever. The third in a series of reports from ACS, *Privacy-Preserving Data Sharing Frameworks* looks at practical means by which private data can remain private in shared datasets. It examines thresholds for 'reasonable' privacy and looks at how data can be properly and practically obfuscated to maintain its usefulness while protecting the identities of individuals.

Patent Analytics Report on Machine Learning Innovation

Few technologies are going to define the 21st century like machine learning. Organisations in every nation are racing to become market leaders in the emerging sector. Developed with IP Australia, this ACS report uses patent analytics as a lens to understand the current international state of play when it comes to machine learning. It looks at the nations with the most patents in the sector and what those patents cover.

Patent Analytics Report on Machine Learning Innovation, launched by Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, Karen Andrews.

ACS Australia's Digital Pulse.

Technology Impacts on the Australian Workforce

Developed in conjunction with AI analytics specialists Faethm, this paper takes a broad look at the effects of technology on all sectors of the Australian workforce over the next 15 years. It reveals that automation will displace an incredible 2.7 million Australian workers and substantially change the jobs of 4.5 million more within that time period. It breaks down impact by sector, and reveals the extent of – and potential solutions to – structural unemployment and the explosive demand for additional technology workers.

Female Founders Alumni

Following on from last year's hugely successful *Rockstar Aussie Founders Living in the US* report, *Female Founders Alumni* focuses on some of the most successful female founders in the startup sector in Australia. It profiles 12 of the nation's up-and-comers, looking at the challenges they face, how they got to where they are, and their strategies for succeeding in a highly competitive marketplace.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg speaks at the launch of *ACS Australia's Digital Pulse.*

RoboCup

Making technology fun for the next generation.

To attract the next generation of technology professionals, ACS believes that technology has to be more than simply functional – it has to be fun and engaging as well. In line with that, ACS became a major sponsor of the RoboCup 2019 tournament in Sydney, serving as STEM Champion sponsor for the annual event.

Running from 2-8 July 2019, the tournament pitted teams of soccer-playing robots against each other in a variety of categories and leagues, such as walking or wheeled robots, human size or miniature.

Begun in 1997 as the Robot Soccer World Cup, the event has attracted a major international following as student teams from around the world compete to build robots that could function in real-world environments.

The goal is not just to develop robots for the narrow application of playing soccer. The disciplines learned during the competition can be applied to real-world problems like computer perception, physical locomotion and problem solving.

There are even non-soccer-related competitions at the event, including an Industrial Logistics League that sees teams developing a miniature factory with another robot that can adjust the machinery on the fly; a Rescue League in which robots are tested for their ability to traverse difficult terrain and interact with the environment; and a Find My Mates event in which robots were tasked with finding and navigating to a specific person in a crowded room.

Hosted at the International Convention Centre in Sydney, the event attracted over 2,000 participants from more than 300 teams (including five-time RoboCup champions, the University of New South Wales' team rUNSWwift) and thousands of international and Australian visitors.
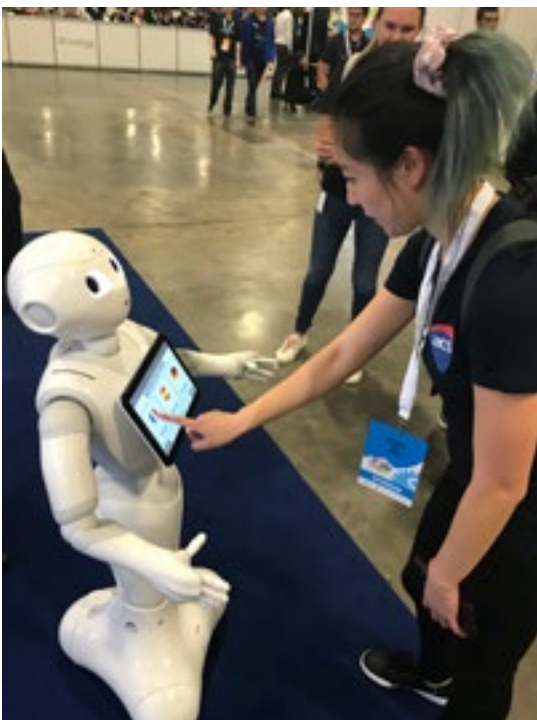
Not every robot was built to play soccer.

Members of the NSW Police Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit, which had a keen interest in the Rescue League.

Teams set up for a match.

Miniature walking robots go at it.

The setup and robots of the Industrial Logistics League.

Media Partnerships

Making sure the ICT industry gets heard.

A key part of ACS' mission is to ensure that issues affecting the technology industry get a wider hearing. Throughout the course of the year, we partnered with a number of media organisations to ensure that key issues affecting the ICT industry were heard on mainstream media outlets.

Sky News Tech Perspectives and The Innovation Forum

Beginning in May 2020, Sky News and ACS started the production of a new show: *Tech Perspectives*, an hour-long program that aired on Sunday evenings at 5pm. Over the course of five weeks we delivered four *Tech Perspectives* programs, covering critical issues, including the recovery and innovation that will take place in the ICT sector post COVID-19.

Each episode featured a panel of expert speakers and was hosted by ACS CEO Andrew Johnson. Topics discussed included the economic road to recovery post COVID-19; how digital is transforming business models; the effects of automation on the way Australians will work in the future; and the need for a vibrant tech sector and digital infrastructure during the recovery.

Prior to the start of Tech Perspectives, ACS was also a sponsor of *The Innovation Forum*, a weekly technology-focused show airing on the network.

Create Disrupt Change

Create Disrupt Change was developed as a snackable TV show that would air on Sky News each week. It alternated between five-minute and one-minute episodes, each covering an important issue for the technology industry.

From July to December, 19 episodes were produced and broadcast on Sky News. They covered topics as diverse as data sharing, blockchain, virtual reality, digital transformation, smart cities, startups and much more. Each episode looked at the critical issues for the technology industry today and tomorrow, with an expert guest providing insight into their area of expertise.

All of the episodes are available on ACS' YouTube page.

The guests included:

- Ian Oppermann, NSW Chief Data Scientist
- Colin Dominish, Australian Digital Leader, GHD Digital
- Stefan Hajkowicz, Director, Data61 Insight Team & Alexandra Bratanova, PhD, Research Scientist, Data61 Insight Team
- Dr Aengus Tran, Co-Founder, Harrison.ai
- Dheeren Velu, Director AI, Capgemini

- Matthew Perry, CIO, Ororoa
- Steve Crutchfield, Vice-President and Managing Director, Motorola Solutions Australia
- Steve Nouri, Head of Data Science, Nod
- Martin Pakaula MP, Victorian Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade
- Alex Colvin, CEO and Founder, Pendula
- Yohan Ramasundara, President, ACS
- Samantha MacLeod, CISO, AGL
- Steve Godbee, CIO ANZ, IBM
- David Stevens, Chairman, Brennan IT
- Robert Linsdell, Managing Director ANZ, Vertiv
- Amy Robson, Senior Product Manager, Adobe
- Alex McCauly, CEO, StartupAus
- Jordan Nguyen, CEO, Psykinetic
- John Hampton, Worldwide Customer Field Support Director, AMD

AFR Special Reports

ACS also worked with *The Australian Financial Review* to produce several special reports that ran as major sections of the national paper.

One special report focused on the key learnings from ACS Reimagination event in December. It covered the panels and speakers and major points of interest from the event, as well as some of the winners of the ACS Digital Disruptors Awards.

The other major special report was an extended feature on smart cities, looking at their benefits and implications, and how Australia might move forward on making our cities safer and more liveable, thanks to technology.

An *AFR* special report on smart cities.

Create Disrupt Change ran weekly on Sky News.

The Australian Financial Review's coverage of Reimagination.

ACS President Ian Oppermann speaks about data sharing in the very first episode of *Create Disrupt Change.*

Vertiv Managing Director Robert Linsdell talks about smart cities on *Create Disrupt Change.*

Tech Perspectives behind the scenes.

The panel readies for *Tech Perspectives.*

Hackathons

Supercharging change.

In what is becoming something of a fixture for ACS, we ran two hackathons during the course of the year. These extended events are designed to bring together some of the brightest minds in Australia's technology industry to solve some of its most pressing problems. Framed as competitions, hackathons ask teams to compete to develop a solution to a specific problem, with prizes for the most effective solutions.

Flatten the Curve Hackathon #flattenthecurvehack

Running from 9 April to 11 April, ACS' Flatten the Curve virtual hackathon turned into one of our biggest events of the year. Described as 'the biggest hackathon in the Asia Pacific', the event saw over 2,400 competitors in more than 200 teams from around the world compete for $50,000 in prize money.

The Hackathon was designed to find solutions that might help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus and mitigate its impacts. Forty-three entries were shortlisted across five categories: education, assisting health care, protecting the vulnerable, the future of work, and wellness and mental health.

Winners included VIP Party, an app to overcome stay-at-home loneliness; Team U Space, a tool to maintain proper social distancing at co-working spaces; and the University of Canberra Engineering Society's 3D-printed adjustable face shields.

2700 PEOPLE APART OF #FLATTENTHECURVE

The complete list of winners includes:

Education Challenge

Winner: Idea 11

2nd Place: Skycap

3rd Place: Hacklings

Helping Health Systems Challenge

Winner: In it to win it

2nd Place: TeamFAST

3rd Place: Healthcare Hackteam

Protecting Vulnerable Populations Challenge

Winner: UC Engineering Society

2nd Place: CovidCrashers

3rd Place: Team CareBubble

Future of Work Challenge

Winner: U-Space

2nd Place: Back to life

3rd Place: LSNB

Wellness & Mental Health Challenge

Winner: VIP Party

2nd Place: Carebears

3rd Place: ProjectX

The entries can be viewed on the ACS Hackathon YouTube Channel.

Defence Force Hackathon #shockproof

Conducted and executed by the ACS over the weekend of 15 to 17 May, this virtual event bought together 500 innovators from across Australian and New Zealand to find ways to harden Australian and New Zealand defence logistics – in particular, capacity to respond rapidly to unforeseen events.

Run over the course of 48 hours, the hackathon involved 40 pitch presentations by teams, which were in turn guided by 70 mentors from the industry.

The first prize winner, Gaia Pod, picked up $7,000 from IBM for its supply chain and logistics communications device that could be air-dropped at short notice to deliver a service for disaster response or military applications.

Here's the complete list of prize winners:

- 1st Prize: IBM sponsored $7,000 awarded to Gaia Pod, a supply chain and logistics optimisation solution using artificial intelligence and machine learning.

- 2nd Prize: IBM sponsored $2,000 awarded to FVEX, an enabling policies and supply chain and logistics optimisation solution.

- 3rd Prize: IBM sponsored $1,000 awarded to Team White Hat for its cyber resilience solution.

- 4th Prize: ANSTO's Nandin Innovation Centre 3+ months membership awarded to Help from Heroes, a people, culture and wellness app.
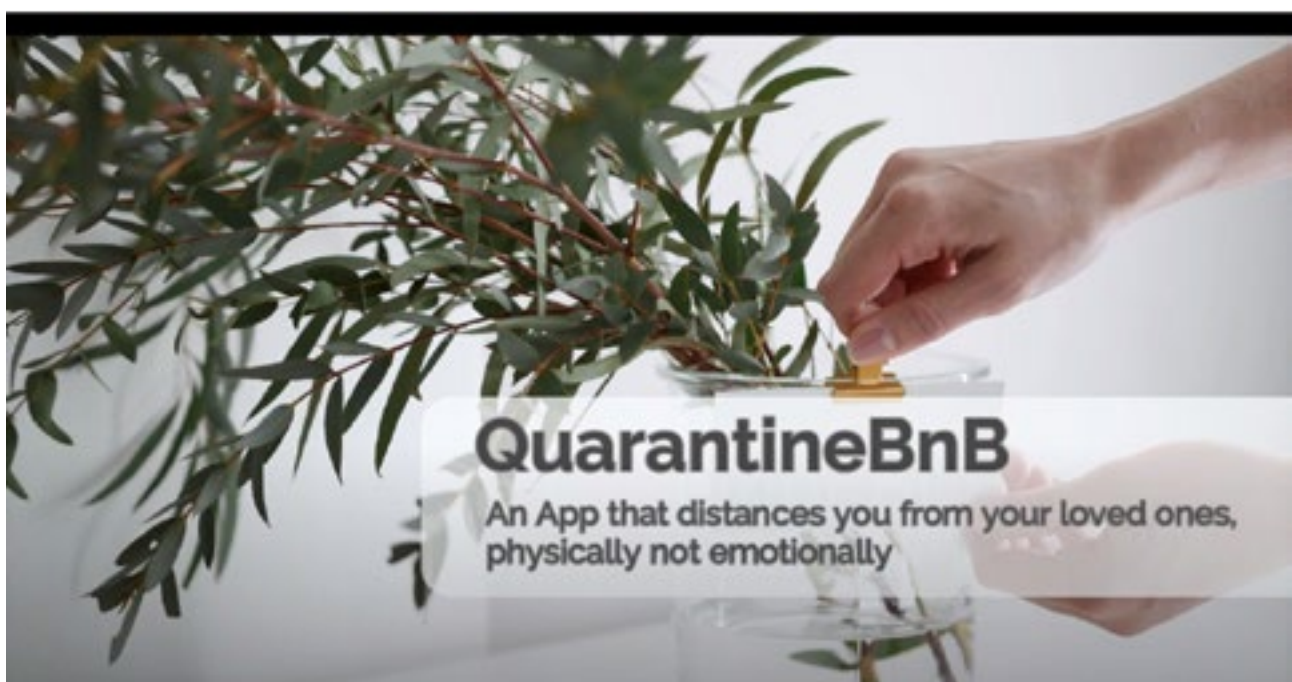
CovidCrashers pitches its QuarantineBNB solution for #flattenthecurvehack.

Industry Insights and Fireside Chat

Supercharging change.

In FY2019/20, ACS continued its popular Industry Insights series. The series comprises in-depth interviews with many of Australia's successful and up-and-coming technology leaders. Interviews cover a wide range of topics, from running a large technology business, to accelerating growth in an established organisation, to getting a new company off the ground and all the challenges that entails.

In addition to the archive of interviews already present, ACS added 12 more interviews over the course of the year. We also published a Fireside Chat with the Hon Paul Fletcher, Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, in which the minister discussed his government's policy responses to COVID-19 and other major issues affecting the ICT industry in 2020.

All of the interviews can be viewed on ACS' YouTube page.

This year's Industry Insights interviews included chats with:

- Sam Mostyn, Board Member and Chairman, Citibank, Transurban, Mirvac
- Stevan Premutico, Founder, Dimmi
- Matt Pancino, Former CTO, Commonwealth Bank
- Rod Van Onselen, Chief Transformation and Digital Officer, Origin Energy
- Steven Vamos, CEO, Xero
- Susan McLean, Cyber Safety Expert, Cyber Safety Solutions
- Adam Schuck, Director of Engineering, Canva
- Bob Hennessy, CIO, Lendlease
- Wayne Baskin, CTO, Booktopia
- Sarah McCullough, CIO, Essential Energy
- David Theody, Board Director, CSIRO, Tyro Payments, Xero, Ramsay Health Care, Vodafone
- Mikaela Jade, Founder, Indigital

Behind the scenes on Industry Insights.

ACS CEO Andrew Johnson joins the Hon Paul Fletcher MP for a Fireside Chat.

Education Across the Nation (EdXN)

Engaging the technology professionals of today and tomorrow.

EdXN is a signature part of the ACS Event Series, where high-profile speakers share topical insights about the ICT sector and ACS demonstrates its role as a thought leader in the technology sphere. These forums are held in each major state in Australia and attract a large audience.

In FY2019/20, ACS ran three major EdXN events, including our first virtual EdXN.

Infrastructure from the Cloud to the Edge

Robert Linsdell, Vertiv

The pace of digital disruption and innovation has brought many challenges. One of them is the need to have the right IT infrastructure to keep up with the pace of digital change. In this EdXN roadshow, industry leaders Vertiv sought to educate professionals about how to be proactive in engaging with Australia's emerging IT infrastructures and how to best prepare businesses in a hybrid IT environment.

Epic Tech for Humanity

Jordan Nguyen, Psykinetic

The relationship between technology and humanity is evolving, with technology becoming more integral to our lives. Speaking at Reimagination, Dr Jordan Nguyen, world-leading innovator, founder and CEO of Psykinetic, outlined how technology can help positively impact and transform our lives for the better.
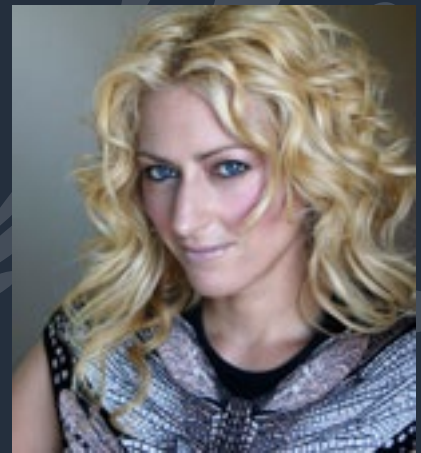
Gaming for Resilience

Jane McGonigal, game designer

In ACS' first virtual EdXN in May, game designer Jane McGonigal revealed how playing games can increase resilience during this time of uncertainty. Attendees learned how to play a game that can increase your ability to anticipate hard-to-predict futures and received practical tips, including which mobile games can protect you from the negative impacts of extreme stress and trauma.

Team Reports

ACS has a variety of teams that work to provide our members and partners with a wide range of services, from education and accreditation, to government relations, to helping startups and providing digital services to members. Let's take a look at what they've been up to in the past year.

Innovation Labs and Startup Catalyst

Helping Aussie founders and businesses to scale up.

In the past 12 months, the ACS Innovation Labs and the Startup Catalyst program have advanced ACS' mission to be the catalyst for innovative creation and adoption of technology.

Many Aussie tech entrepreneurs and their teams have now completed their second year within an ACS Lab, and their collective success demonstrates the need for programs dedicated to Australia's most promising fast-growth technology companies. With Labs now located in three major cities – Brisbane (River City Labs), Sydney (Harbour City Labs) and Melbourne (Bay City Labs) – ACS has made a strong commitment to tech innovation in Australia.

River City Labs (RCL)

Led by General Manager Pauline Fetaui, the River City Labs team has successfully assisted over 38 companies employing 116 people in scaling their businesses during the course of FY2019/20. In addition to the dedicated program of work with founders, the year has featured many other highlights.

- Initiatives to support equality in tech and entrepreneurship, including RCL hosting the Brisbane edition of Global Startup Weekend for Women in September 2019. Over the course of 54 hours more than 100 women came together, pitched ideas, formed teams and launched their startups.

- RCL's promotion of female leadership in tech and innovation also included jointly hosted events with ACS Queensland, Advance Queensland and the Queensland Chief Entrepreneurs Office, which all collaborated to celebrate International Women's Day 2020 with a series of panel events that discussed experience, knowledge and perseverance when it comes to tackling roles in science, tech and building a startup.

- RiverPitch, the signature event for RCL, was proudly sponsored by McCullough Robertson in November 2019 and successfully showcased eight innovative Queensland startups to over 100 attendees (including investors, entrepreneurs and media). The pre-qualified startups represented entrepreneurs solving real-world challenges for Australia.

- A strong investor community is a critical success factor for entrepreneurs, and RCL continued to play a pivotal role in Queensland through our McCullough Robertson and Pitcher Partners sponsored events, Investor Education and Capital Raising. We also hosted a conglomerate of UK investors led by Chris Lowe of NOTWICS in December 2019, showcasing some of RCL's finest alumni and startup talent.

- The Global Network kicked off 2020 with visits from the LA Mayor's Office, ASEAN Network, a showcase from Estonia's Digital Society and the Chief AI Officer from Canada.

- RCL successfully moved all programs online in March 2020 following the COVID-19 global pandemic and successfully held 26 digital events with more than 700 attendees through to the end of the financial year. Our Tech Toolbox and Building Business workshops were also opened to the broader community to assist startups across the country during a very challenging time.

- RCL launched our Talent Landing Pad and welcomed new mentors for students. Thanks to our partnership with Federation University, we also brought 50 students onboard for our Master of IT course, which provides essential business skills to IT students and helps them deliver real world projects to RCL Startups.

- RCL launched our Activate program in May, offering nine early-stage startups an intensive four-week course led by River City Labs Entrepreneurs-in-Residence, Peter Laurie and Llew Jury, as well as General Manager Pauline Fetaui. The Activate program included rapid validation of business ideas, solutions and market opportunities and finished with a demo and pitch event attracting over 100 stakeholders and investors locally and overseas. Over a further three months, the Activate teams will continue their commercialisation journey in River City Labs.

Innovation Labs and Startup Catalyst

Harbour City Labs (HCL)

Led by Head of Growth, Andrew Corbett-Jones, Harbour City Labs has assisted 13 companies employing 95 people locally to scale their businesses in the past 12 months. In addition to the dedicated program of work with founders, here are some other highlights from the year.

- Our monthly Founders for Founders sessions provide a dedicated environment for founders to discuss and engage in relevant content and challenges including: mental health and motivation, business challenges, financial impacts of COVID and access to government subsidies, as well as capital raising and investment strategies.

- The investor community is a critical success factor for entrepreneurs and, like RCL, HCL hosted a group of UK Investors led by Chris Lowe of NOTWICS in December 2019 and showcased some of HCL's finest tech talent during their visit to Sydney.

- Adoption of new technology is directly related to understanding its impact and the "Technology Impacts on the Australian Workforce" report was prepared by artificial-intelligence (AI)

analytics platform and HCL resident Faethm in conjunction with ACS. It highlighted the significant and far-reaching impact of emerging technologies will have on the Australian workforce in the next 15 years. The report was launched at a VIP breakfast in early March by Chairman of the Select Senate Committee reviewing FinTech and RegTech, Senator Andrew Bragg.

- Harrison.ai successfully graduating from HCL after securing $29 million in a round led by Blackbird Ventures. Harrison.ai joined HCL in 2018 and provides physicians and healthcare providers with customised AI-enabled tools that integrate into existing clinical workflows.

- In partnership with Virtus Health (the world's largest IVF provider), Harrison. ai successfully developed, validated and deployed a deep learning model ('IVY') for predicting the likelihood of pregnancy from analysing time-lapse incubation videos. IVY is a patent-pending technology that has increased clinical pregnancy success rates in IVF treatment by over 30%.

Bay City Labs (BCL)

Opened this year, BCL welcomed four companies employing 14 people to the newest Innovation Lab for ACS. In addition to the dedicated program of work with founders, this year has included the following highlights.

- The AI Hub opened in December 2019, with 50 seats of BCL dedicated to businesses using artificial intelligence to solve real world problems. The AI Hub includes an eight-panel multimedia wall, enabling on-site tech scaleups to host stand-ups demonstrating their AI products to their customers and investors.

- BCL partnered with Pitcher Partners to run an Investor Ready event and also hosted a group of UK Investors led by Chris Lowe of NOTWICS in December 2019 which showcased some of BCL's and Victoria's finest tech talent during their visit to Melbourne.

ACS' commitment to tech innovation in Australia would not be possible without the support of our corporate partners. The Innovation team would like to thank EY, BOQ, McCullough Robertson, Pitcher Partners, Federation University, Harvey Norman, OQCE, Cake Equity and OnMarket, and the Queensland Government.

Startup Catalyst

Since 2014 Startup Catalyst has been identifying early stage technology startups and entrepreneurs to take them on missions to global tech hotspots, connecting them with accelerators, incubators and investors to inspire them to bring their ideas to commercial reality.

In 2019, Todd McGregor accepted the role of General Manager and brought a renewed focus on embedding and commercialising government and industry engagement. Six missions were planned for 2020:

- AgTech Mission, Denver and San Francisco
- Investors Mission, San Francisco
- London Tech Week Mission, London
- Female Founders Mission, London
- Future Founders Mission, San Francisco
- Singapore Tech Week Mission, Singapore

Unfortunately, in early March, all 2020 missions had to be cancelled or delayed due to international travel restrictions and the impact of COVID-19 across the globe.

The team pivoted our focus and developed a range of domestic missions with support from government and industry, and has received pre-commitments for several missions in the coming year. The team looks forward to facilitating international missions once it is safe to travel again. In the meantime, however, we will leverage the best Australia has to offer to deliver immersive tech experiences locally.

Camille Souquet and Stephanie Leahey at RiverPitch in November.

A presentation for International Women's Day at RCL, where female founders talked about their experiences.

ADMA , IAPA, DGA and D+TC

Australia's leading data-driven associations, now part of ACS.

ACS announced the acquisition of leading data-driven associations ADMA (Association for Data-Driven Marketing and Advertising), IAPA (Institute of Analytics Professionals of Australia), D+TC (Digital + Technology Collective) and DGA (Data Governance Australia) on September 18.

With over 600 brands as members, the associations are arguably the leading data-driven industry associations in Australia and will now work within the broader ACS family. These acquisitions were intended to add benefits for members and the broader ACS community across the entire data value chain as analytics and data governance become core skills for ICT professionals.

After being acquired by ACS, the teams worked hard to quickly bring the groups into the ACS fold.

Through ACS Plus, ACS members can now access benefits to help them acquire related and new skills spanning the data value chain – from analytics, marketing, governance and privacy. ACS Plus offers existing ACS members access to discounts on the following education courses:

- The online IAPA Analytics Fundamentals course
- The online IAPA Data Visualisation course

- The virtual ADMA introductory Digital Marketing Essentials course
- The virtual ADMA introductory Data-Driven Marketing Essentials course.

Discounted tickets to the ADMA Data Week conference and IAPA Advancing Analytics conference are also available to ACS members.

ACS Plus members can also subscribe to ADMA's data-driven marketing newsletter, the IAPA analytics and data science newsletter and the D+TC digital and technology newsletter, ensuring the ACS community now has access to market-driven resources.

Andrea Martens, CEO of ADMA , IAPA, DGA and D+TC.

Australia Post's Silvio Giorgio, ranked as top analytics leader for 2020 in the IAPA Top 25 Analytics Leaders program.

ADMA

For ADMA, FY2019/20's big ambition was to overhaul our educational offerings, ensuring members were receiving the most relevant learning opportunities. This has allowed ADMA to now offer over 260 course dates each year.

Like most organisations, ADMA needed to react to the COVID-19 pandemic. Within 24 hours of going into lockdown on 17 March, our education offerings were completely virtual, allowing members to continue their engagement while working from home. During the eight-weeks of lockdown to June 30, we had a 30% increase in participants engaging with our courses through the online format.

Other initiatives during the COVID-19 period included renewing ADMA's curriculum to include a new Digital Marketing Certificate and the launch of our most successful course to date with Mark Ritson, aimed at professionals working from home, which attracted over 1,000 participants. Through this time, we also adapted the annual Data Day conference to an online format, with solid ticket sales.

IAPA

For IAPA, the highlight of the year was IAPA recognising Australia's best and brightest leaders in the Top 25 Analytics Leaders program, which included the most diverse nominees in its three years to date.

During the year, IAPA also held its Advancing Analytics conference, which showed how to make analytics matter using leadership skills and technical expertise within an ethical framework with excellent soft skills and leadership ability. The one-day event also provided valuable connections and networking for those in the analytics community.

In addition, IAPA started beta testing university accreditation for data science.

Education

Ensuring Australia has a bright future in technology.

FY2019/20 has been a period of growth, uplift and disruption for ACS Education. Building the capacity and capability of Australia's ICT workforce, supporting new entrants to the field with professional guidance and real-work experiences, and supporting teachers implementing the Digital Technologies curriculum through dedicated resources and services required the transformation of how our education products were offered.

ICT Educators Program and Community of Practice

ACS' ICT Educators Program supports teachers across Australia in the implementation of the Digital Technologies curriculum through the following:

- Curation of teacher and student resources and materials for the first year of school through to Year 10.

- In-school support services, such as working with teachers to prepare for school terms and providing units of work and lesson plans.

- Support resources that help ICT concepts and language be better understood by teachers and educators.

The ACS ICT Educator Community of Practice provides over 400+ teachers across Australia with access to free teacher and student resources for immediate use in the classroom. Through

the year, the ICT Educators Program increased the volume of resources afforded to teachers including new materials such as:

- Yearly Scope and Sequence for the first year of school to Year 4.

- Yearly Scope and Sequence planning tools.

- Tech Explorer Activities (lunch-time coding activities). Activities for: Scratch Junior, Scratch, Sphero, mBot, CodeBug, emerging technologies (VR, AR, 3D printers, app development).

- ACS ICT Educators Scratch Profile and Scratch projects.

- Year 9–10 Term Unit: Creating Entrepreneurs.

- Year 5–6 Term Unit: Circuits and Switches; Enhancing Communities with Minecraft.

- Year 3–6 Unit of work: AR.

ACS also continued to develop relationships with education

stakeholders and industry partners with new partnerships with Atlassian, Australian Science Academy, Quitch, Alannah & Madeline Foundation, the Australian National University and 2Simple.

In response to COVID-19 and the challenges experienced by teachers with the move to remote-based learning and classrooms, the ACS ICT Educators Program released the ICT Educators Virtual Development Series. Over the course of Term 2 in 2020, ACS delivered the eight online events to give teachers insight into how technology can be utilised as students learn from home and during the transition back into the classroom. Over 960 teachers and educators attended the ICT Educators Virtual Development Series, which explored new ways to inspire teaching practices and embed STEM through the utilisation of technology.

Professional Year

ACS' Professional Year Program prepares recent international student graduates for the Australian workforce through real-work experiences and mentoring support. In FY2019/20, the Professional Year Program experienced another period of growth, and continues to contribute to the diversification of Australia's ICT workforce.

ACS' new learning management system – Canvas – was in full operation with the deployment of improved courseware for the Professional Environments Online Course and Professional Year Online Orientation. Canvas has enabled the ACS Professional Year Program to extend to the ACS core product suite, including single sign-on through MyACS, mySFIA self-assessment functionality, ACS Digital Library and Learning Accelerator.

Continued improvements were made to the PY Framework and Quality Management system to ensure high-quality outcomes and adherence by ACS Professional Year providers. Increased monitoring of internships was undertaken through the establishment of dedicated resources within the ACS Education Team, providing monitoring and support services to students and providers as well as on-site visits with host employers.

In response to COVID-19, ACS Education ensured a rapid response to the challenges and obstacles including the following:

- Approval for Professional Year providers to deliver PY program content from in-class to flexible delivery.

- Monitoring arrangements for remote and flexible delivery of classroom-based components of the program.

- Internship and Student Welfare services, including deployment of approval processes for remote-based internships.

- Continual Professional Development (CPD) policy changes to enable students to acquire CPD through online offerings.

- The provision of remote quality assurance reviews.

- Development of a Work Integrated Learning Program to support 'at risk' students.

- Training and forums for PY providers and ACS Tutors, including an Annual ACS Tutor Forum held in Melbourne, webinars for PY provider staff and a PY Provider Forum in Melbourne.

ICT Education Specialist Catherine Newington at QLD STEM Teacher Symposium

Gateway for Industry Schools Program (GISP)

In FY2019/20, ACS secured the newly created Gateway to Industry Schools Program (GISP) for the information and communication technology sector in Queensland. This program is managed and funded by the Queensland Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT). It is aligned to the department's vision for all Queenslanders to have the skills and opportunities to participate and prosper in the economy. This program is perfectly aligned to ACS' vision for Australia to be a world leader in technology talent, to foster innovation and create new forms of value.

The ICT GISP provides opportunities for industry and the education sector to work together to deliver outcomes for students, local communities and businesses. It aims to provide education and career opportunities for school students and an avenue for industries to meet future workforce requirements by increasing the number of students choosing a pathway into their industry sector. It includes the following:

- A student stream, focused on providing secondary school students with early information and career engagement services, mentoring and industry connection services, work readiness experiences and a formal vocational pathways program.

- An education stream, which is focused on knowledge pathways in relation to current ICT and industry trends and practices, employer and industry connections activities and experiential and immersive learning workshops.

Workforce Development

ACS Workforce Development services continue to drive capability and skills conversation across ICT workforces. FY2019/20 demonstrated the need to support organisations and government departments in establishing skills profiles and benchmarking of job roles, ensuring the capture of skills and capabilities.

The implementation of Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA) version 7 was accelerated across ASX 100 companies and Federal and State Government departments through the course of the year, extending to multi-national workforces in countries such as Indonesia, New Zealand, South Pacific nations and the United States.

ACS members also continued to actively engage with mySFIA by undertaking of self-assessment and reflection of SFIA skills and capabilities.

Workforce Development service offerings to ACS members and Professional Partners included the creation of 750+ SFIA Job Role Profiles and the validation of over 2,000 SFIA specialist skills, with 87% of ACS members who undertook SFIA skills validation achieving ACS Certification status. Over 1,500 individual SFIA Skills Analysis and Development Roadmaps were issued to ACS members, with a 45% increase in the utilisation of ACS learning and development products.

ACS' contribution to the continuous improvement of SFIA extends to our membership in the SFIA Council. With the announcement of SFIA 8 Consultation and its launch, ACS will contribute input and representation through the SFIA Design Authority and the provision of professional discipline workshops in FY2020/21.

Complimentary Certification Offer

In April 2020 ACS announced free certification for Associate Members during the COVID-19 lockdown. Up until the end of the financial year, ACS Associate Members could apply to have their skills and experience independently validated by the ACS.

Members successfully certified are entitled to use the applicable Certified Professional or Certified Technologist insignia, demonstrating they are part of an elite, internationally recognised group of technology professionals.

Members attaining a Certified Professional status are also be eligible for additional benefits, including being recognised under Commonwealth and State Government Professional Standards Schemes, additional personal protection capping liability and increased insurance cover under the ACS insurance policy for eligible members.

Higher Education Accreditation

Ensuring the calibre of future professionals.

As part of our Higher Education Accreditation program, ACS works with Australian educational institutions to ensure students learn high-quality, work-relevant skills that can meet future industry needs. We set graduate standards, provide support for improvement in higher education and give recognition to quality programs through structured review and accreditation of ICT-related degree and master's programs.

ACS Accreditation is awarded to an institution and its programs only after a rigorous evaluation of its capacity to produce graduates who have the knowledge and skills required of an ICT professional. Not all ICT programs achieve ACS Accreditation, and many are required to address shortcomings within set time frames to maintain accreditation status. The process is designed as a stimulus for rigour in program design and a filter for those not able to meet the standards.

In October 2019, we completed a pilot for accreditation process reforms, phasing out the old accreditation process and finalising the new model. The feedback to date indicates that institutions have an opportunity to greatly reduce compliance costs once they transition to take full advantage of our new approach. A great deal of labour has already been saved in avoiding hundreds of pages of bespoke report preparation.

During FY2019/20:

- The Accreditation Committee met seven times.
- 10 major accreditation visits and four ancillary campus visits were conducted.
- Two pre-accreditation workshops were completed.
- Five-year accreditations were granted for 91 courses at:
  - Australian Catholic University
  - Deakin University (IT)
  - Edith Cowan University (IS)
  - La Trobe (Business School)
  - University of Adelaide
  - University of Canberra
  - UNSW (Business School)
  - University of Southern Queensland
  - University of Sydney
  - University of Tasmania
- In lieu of on-site accreditation inspection, two remote campus assessments were conducted.
- ACS worked with a consortium of peak bodies to release a Joint Statement of Principles for the Higher Education Sector COVID-19 Response.

The ACS Accreditation process reform project succeeded in its aims to:

- Simplify processes.
- Align with Australian government higher education standards.
- Be clear on criteria but flexible on forms of evidence.

- Reduce duplicate information and duplicate analysis.
- Streamline submissions and reduce compliance costs.
- Seek a more authentic evaluation.

A Preliminary Appraisal now helps institutions new to ACS Accreditation to plan and prepare for accreditation and to self-assess for readiness to proceed. ACS also now offers program design workshops on request.

Before work starts on an application, an ACS Case Manager plans and prepares with the institution. Applications are brief and ACS will seek digital information access rather than extensive bespoke reports. Accreditation starts with a digital review then proceeds to a campus review by an expert panel. Outcomes are determined by the ACS Accreditation Committee. Conditions of accreditation may be imposed, and corrective actions may be required by a set date.

Specialist Accreditation in Cyber Security

In 2019, ACS introduced a Specialist Accreditation in Cyber Security. ACS now offers Specialist Accreditation in Cyber Security for higher education programs with (in summary):

- An identifiable title that distinguishes it from non-specialist programs.
- An objective to produce graduates prepared for a specialist cyber security job role.
- Development of skills required for the cyber security professional role and mapped to the SFIA framework.
- At least one EFTSL (eight subjects) of cyber security content (including cyber security-related subjects).

Migration Skills Assessment

Ensuring highly skilled tech professionals are assessed and validated to meet our nation's workforce demands.

As the approved Assessing Authority for ICT-related occupations under general skilled migration, the ACS Migration Skills Assessment team assesses 24 different occupation codes on the list of eligible skilled occupations as determined by the Department of Home Affairs.

Intended to supplement skills shortages in Australia's domestic workforce, this important role ensures continued economic growth and helps the nation position itself for continued prosperity.

The occupations suffering shortages are reviewed regularly by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment to respond to the evolving Australian labour market.

Professional skills and knowledge for Australian ICT job roles also evolve over time. We therefore review our assessment standards on an ongoing basis to ensure applicants meet genuine skill shortages without displacing Australian workers.

In 2019, ACS introduced a range of new methods, technologies and requirements for secondary evidence to substantiate applicant claims. These measures meet new government expectations and manage growing risks of fraud, misrepresentation and document alteration.

There was a softening of demand for ICT skills assessments through the latter half of 2019 due to changes in skilled migration policy. March 2020 then saw a sharp drop in demand as a consequence of COVID-19. ACS maintained continuity of processing and customer service standards despite work-from-home disruptions, and we achieved an average assessment turnaround time for the year of less than five weeks.

Digital Services

Providing a digital toolkit for our members.

As in most organisations, ACS' information systems were tested by the COVID-19 crisis. However, ACS was able to continue to deliver value for members as the shutdowns took effect, rapidly adapting and confidently responding to the threats and challenges presented by a rapidly changing environment.

When the crisis took hold, ACS' Digital Enablement team was able to quickly deploy online member services, including the six-month membership extension, a tech careers platform, enhanced professional development content and online events.

The team was also responsible for rolling out a Webinar-in-a-Box kit to the NSW, Victorian and Queensland branches to enable high-quality online events following the closure of ACS event venues.

ACS' effective technology response was due to the 2015 decision to embark on a digital transformation journey to ensure value for members, later enhanced by the 2018 Technology Plan. As a result of this plan, services to members and the profession were not interrupted by COVID-19.

Apart from the COVID-19 crisis, the Digital Enablement team was at the forefront of a range of changes across ACS, including the launch of the Melbourne Docklands Innovation Hub, the relocation of the South Australian branch, and integrating the tech stacks of River City Labs and the AADL assets acquired during the year.

Overall, the year saw interactions with ACS' online services increase by more than 10%, while technology costs were reduced by more than 10%.

Service Provision

Branches and member-accessible Innovation Hubs were given higher speed internet access with the replacement of the older MPLS branch and site WAN with fast broadband IP SD-WAN. This also coincided with upgrading the Barangaroo communications links and ensuring compatibility with the new Melbourne Hub.

The integration of River City Labs and the AADL assets also presented an opportunity, with the Digital Enablement team moving both groups onto existing ACS services and negotiating reduced licence fees for the new acquisitions from vendors.

Cyber security

The current security landscape requires increased vigilance for ACS to protect member data and the organisation's assets. A key objective of the Digital Enablement team was to strengthen the cyber security posture across ACS' perimeter, products and services, platforms, sites and endpoints.

Some of the tasks included enabling a business to consumer (B2C) capability for the cyber security microcredential offering and moving customer-facing services off the ACS' private corporate cloud.

Professional Year Learning Management System

During the year, ACS integrated professional development content and structured learning pathway service offerings for members into myACS, increasing accessibility.

This involved changing platforms for the Professional Year Learning Management System to provide a more user-friendly and responsive experience.

Microsites

We also launched an Adobe AEM microsite framework and foundation component library that enabled the launch of 11 new ACS microsites, including membership.acs.org.au, reimagination.acs.org.au, and riverpitch.acs.org.au.

The capability to roll out microsites on short notice ensures ACS can deliver increased value to members by quickly launching new products and rapidly responding to industry developments.

Policy & Advocacy

Serving as the voice of the ICT industry.

One of ACS' core missions is to serve as a voice for the Australian technology industry in a political landscape that all too often forgets the sector exists. Through our Public Policy Group and various advisory boards comprising expert members, we provide advice and assistance to the government on matters related to technology and the technology professions.

When the COVID-19 crisis hit, ACS' Policy and Advocacy role became more important than ever before. During the latter part of the financial year, ACS held a number of meetings with key members of parliament from both parties, both offering advice and asking how we might provide assistance in a time of crisis.

The year wasn't all about COVID-19, however, and prior to the outbreak we also held numerous productive discussions and the path forward for IT in Australia. As in previous years, we have maintained steady contact with both state and federal governments, organising a host of meetings to build relationships and make sure that the concerns of the technology industry get heard by those in power. Each of our reports was launched by a notable member of state or federal government. We also attended and submitted responses to parliamentary hearings and inquiries as part of our regular advocacy role.

To provide an example of how we work with government, some of the meetings we held this year included the following:

ACS CEO Andrew Johnson, Trent Zimmermann MP, Karen Andrews MP and ACS President Ian Oppermann at a Boardroom Policy Roundtable in Sydney's Innovation Hub.

- A meeting with Karen Andrews MP, Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, to discuss 2020, tech policy and ways ACS and the Minister can better engage this year.

- A Shadow Minister Policy Roundtable with Clare O'Neil MP, Shadow Minister for Innovation, Technology and the Future of Work, at ACS Docklands, to discuss policy to benefit the tech sector and what the future of work will look like.

- A fintech roundtable with Senator Andrew Bragg as part of our involvement with the Senate review into fintech. ACS CEO Andrew Johnson also spoke at the Senate hearings.

- A meeting with Trent Zimmerman MP to discuss ACS' involvement in the North Sydney Innovation network and ongoing work with the federal government.

- A meeting with Shadow Treasurer Jim Chalmers MP to discuss the economic impacts of COVID-19.

- Joining with Shadow Minister for Education and Training, Tanya Plibersek MP, for a policy roundtable on ACS Education policy.

- A variety of meetings to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 and how government policy and technology can help alleviate the problem. These meetings included private meetings with Shadow Minister for Science, Employment and Industry and Small and Family Business, Brendan O'Connor MP; with Shadow Minister for Communications, Michelle Rowland MP; and with Shadow Minister for Innovation, Technology and the Future of Work, Clare O'Neil MP.

Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, Karen Andrews MP, launching the *Patent Analytics Report on Machine Learning Innovation* on the Gold Coast.

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian with ACS CEO Andrew Johnson and then ACS President Yohan Ramasundara at ACS' Sydney Innovation Hub.

The launch of Privacy-Preserving Data Sharing Frameworks, with (L to R) ACS CEO Andrew Johnson, report Editor and later ACS President Ian Oppermann, and Victor Dominello MP, NSW Minister for Customer Service.

The launch of *ACS Australia's Digital Pulse* in Canberra with Alistair Coe MLA, Leader of the ACT Opposition (second from left).

Information Age

Starting in July 2019, *Information Age* – the flagship news publication of ACS – increased the frequency of our newsletter from once a week to twice a week.

Members and subscribers embraced the increase in frequency by reading more *Information Age* articles and breaking the one million mark for page views within the year.

In total, there were 1,142,711 page views from 593,804 users. Page views were up 221% from last financial year, and users were up 231%.

Every month, on average, there were 49,483 users reading 95,225 pages. In the previous financial year, *Information Age* had 15,412 monthly users viewing 35,727 pages.

The number of *Information Age* subscribers also rose substantially this year, from 82,000 to 103,000, an increase of 26%.

A highlight of the year was *Information Age* travelling with 12 female founders on a Startup Catalyst mission to London. The women were interviewed for a series in *Information Age* and their interviews were published in a volume to promote the entrepreneurs and the breadth of Startup Catalyst missions.

Some of the key news items covered by *Information Age* this year include:

- World leaders vow to stop online terrorism
- Australian universities linked to Chinese surveillance tech
- US regulators fine Facebook $US5m
- 8chan shut down after El Paso shooting
- Consumer Data Right passes into law
- SpaceX successfully tests Starhopper rocket
- Review of Skilled Occupation List
- Alibaba's Jack Ma steps down
- Australia enters space race with $150m NASA deal
- Telstra to shut down 3G network
- First all-female spacewalk makes history
- New visa to 'fast-track' highly skilled migrants
- Uber driverless cars in 37 crashes before fatality
- Disney+ enters the streaming wars
- Elon Musk rolls out the Tesla Cybertruck
- Court finds robodebt unlawful
- Government finally responds to Digital Platforms Inquiry
- ASX to launch new tech index
- Travelex cyber attack hits travellers
- Windows 7 no longer supported by Microsoft
- Apple fined $41m for slowing down iPhones
- TPG and Vodafone merger to go ahead
- Australian Space Agency unveils Adelaide headquarters
- Bill Gates steps down from Microsoft
- Australia climbs supercomputer ranks
- Govt invests $1.35b into cyber security, creates 500 jobs

There was also lots of ACS news this year, including:

- ACS launches its Melbourne Innovation Hub
- ACS acquires ADMA, IAPA, DGA and Digital + Technology Collective
- Navy veteran Warren Faulkner awarded ACS indigenous scholarship
- The case for ACS governance change
- ACS partners with RoboCup
- ACS kicks off tech investment fund with $5m
- ACS honours wi-fi inventors
- ACS Hackathon to flatten the curve

1. Australia slips further in internet speed rankings

2. Top salaries for IT jobs

3. Toll Group recovers after ransomware attack

4. Home Affairs exposes skilled migrant data

5. New visa to 'fast-track' highly skilled migrants

6. The IT skills with the biggest shortages

7. Skilled Occupation List overhaul thrills IT industry

8. The most wanted IT jobs of 2020

9. The smart contact lens that could change everything

10. Toll Group data dumped on dark web

State Reports

ACS operates at more than just a national level. ACS has branch offices in all six states as well as Canberra and the Northern Territory. These offices provide local events and services – hundreds every year between them – ensuring that every member has the opportunity to enjoy professional development and networking events in their local state or territory.

A full list of those events can be found on the ACS website at acs.org.au. Read on for some of the highlights of the past financial year.

Canberra

In FY2019/20 Canberra took a new approach to member engagement, focusing on segmenting audiences to deliver better targeted content.

In particular, we revamped the ACS Professionals events, inviting local and federal government leaders to speak, which produced excellent results. Through the year we saw a 48% increase in attendance at our events compared to the previous financial year.

Topics for those events included: disruption and change, ensuring good governance, creating an APS for the digital age, innovation and transformation. Covering those topics we had speakers from a range of organisations, including Graham Tanto, Executive Group Manager ACT Government; Matthew Yannopoulos, PSM Deputy Secretary Department of Finance; Randall Brugeaud, CEO of the Digital Transformation Agency; and Charles McHardie, Deputy CEO of Services Australia.

In addition to professional events, Canberra hosted its first ACS Tech and Employability Skills Half-Day Conference for the year with support from CIT, University of Canberra, Nutanix and Navitas. We were thrilled to host over 100 students invested in learning how to maximise their employment potential. We look forward to continuing this conference annually.

During the year, the branch also ran its second design thinking workshop hosted by Apis Group, part of Accenture. We brought together a cross section of our membership to review existing engagement platforms and design a new approach for engagement with our local members, including virtually. The outcome highlighted the need to increase awareness of existing resources, attract higher profile speakers and continue to be more targeted with our approach.

The branch took on this feedback and ensured our monthly newsletter included information regarding new and existing tools and resources available to our members and continued to invite and secure high-profile speakers throughout the year.

At the beginning of the financial year Canberra welcomed its first corporate sponsor, Synergy, which has partnered with the branch to support our tech series and local premium events. The new partnership model also attracted a new Diversity and STEM partner, Nutanix, which has supported local initiatives focused on students and young professional members as well as diversity initiatives.

The branch also continued to host sharing knowledge workshops for local and federal government leaders. This included a smart cities and impact of technology event with ACS President Dr Ian Oppermann. These sessions have been well received and provide a mechanism for government departments to collaborate better.

The focus for the coming year will continue to be delivering a targeted approach for all ACT members to ensure the branch supports their professional and learning needs while businesses and individuals navigate through the effects of COVID-19. We will continue to increase our virtual engagement as well as introduce smaller face-to-face engagement platforms. There will be a focus on bespoke engagement activities with our Professional Partners as well as continuation of sharing knowledge platforms for our government partners.

KPMG's Phil Baker at a student event in Canberra.

Matthew Yannopoulos, PSM Deputy Secretary of the Department of Finance, speaks to ACS Professionals.

New South Wales

In spite of the disruption of the latter part of the year, ACS NSW had one of its most productive years on record, with a host of compelling events for both members and students to attend. Throughout the course of the year, the NSW branch ran 36 events, attracting over 2,600 delegates. We continued to run virtual events into the latter part of the year, offering members stuck at home an opportunity to continue to develop their skills and stay connected to the industry.

The largest event by attendance was the Tech and Employability Half-Day Summit for young professionals, with 400 people coming to the event. The event provided advice for students and adults looking to enter the tech sector. Speakers from Fujitsu, My Focus, and the University of Western Sydney offered advice on how to get a foothold in tech.

Other notable events included our Defence Tech event at the beginning of the year, which looked at key innovations in defence technology; the whole-day Build Your Own App masterclass with Codebots (a class that normally costs $598 but was 80% off for ACS members); the launch of ACS' *Technology Impacts on the Australian Workforce* report which looked at how machine learning and automation will affect the workforce of the future; and the End of Year Mixer, a networking event that helps ACS members make contacts and chat with peers over drinks.

In conjunction with the NSW Government, ACS also held an online Privacy Masterclass series. Each of the four events focused on a specific key challenge including: how existing law and its implementation is, or isn't, meeting the needs of citizens; building public trust in data collection, storage and use; data privacy and its place in an algorithm-enabled world; and privacy-enhancing technology.

During the year, ACS NSW was proud to recognise four CSIRO scientists involved in the invention of wi-fi with Honorary Fellowships at a special Fellows Dinner. The invention of wi-fi has imprinted Australia's innovative genius on the world and paved a pathway for the country's future innovators, scientists and technologists. The award to John O'Sullivan, the late John Deane, Graham Daniels and Diethelm Ostry was granted by Dr Ian Oppermann, ACS President and NSW Chief Data Scientist.

Looking forward, ACS NSW is committed to evolving our services to meet the needs of a changing world and workforce. We plan on running an increasingly diverse series of deep dive events across NSW as well as virtually. Utilising our expansive network of prominent experts, influential Fellows and highly regarded leaders, the NSW branch will continue to ensure that members get the assistance they need to develop professionally.

ACS award Honorary Fellowships to the inventors of wi-fi. Left to right: Murali Sagi, Chair ACS NSW Fellows Committee; Diet Ostry; Graham Daniels; John O'Sullivan; and then ACS Vice-Chair, Ian Oppermann.

Celebrating 15 years of the South Coast Chapter with ACS veteran Ashley Maher. Left to right: Anthony Wong (past ACS president), Ashley Maher, Patrick Wilson.

Northern Territory

For ACS NT, FY2019/20 has been one of our most successful on record. Through the course of the year, we blew past our membership goals, achieving an incredible 55% increase in membership and a 24% increase in member retention for the year. We also added eight new organisations to our Professional Partner Program, ensuring ACS' reach into the NT tech industry is deeper than ever before.

The growth was in part driven by a strong series of events run by the branch that highlighted the value of membership and assisted members, students and associates in finding work in the field in NT.

The highlight for many was, as always, the Annual Golf Day. The ACS NT Annual Golf Day is the ICT industry social event of the year, held at the picturesque Gardens Park Golf course in Darwin. It was a valuable opportunity for ICT professionals to socialise and network in a relaxed environment.

Another major event was the *ACS Australia's Digital Pulse 2019* launch. We were joined by then ACS President Yohan Ramasundara,

ACS CEO Andrew Johnson and the Hon Lauren Moss MLA, NT Minister for Corporate and Information Services, to officially launch *ACS Australia's Digital Pulse 2019* and share key highlights from the report for the Northern Territory. The launch was attended by over 100 guests, a record attendance at an event for ACS NT, and was immediately followed by the announcement of ACS' Charles Darwin University Indigenous Scholarship Award winner for 2020, Warren Faulkner.

This event was preceded by an invitation-only Chatham House Rules Ministerial Industry Future Workforce, Skills and Investment Industry Roundtable, where industry and government leaders converged to discuss practical and plausible solutions to advance the Northern Territory tech sector and economy.

There were a host of other notable events through the year: the Gateway to Asia Panel event as part of Boundless Digital Forum with the NT Government, which looked at investment and export

opportunities for the Territory; the ACS NT Emerging Tech & Opportunities to Collaborate with Government discussion event; the Blockchain Myths, Misconceptions and Use Cases webinar; the 3D Metal Printing at CDU presentation and tutorial; the ACS NT Personal Branding, Professional Development & Employment Trends event; a presentation on data governance driven IoT and industry 4.0 automation; and, of course, the ACS NT Branch 2019 Christmas Party and Networking event.

ACS NT was also involved in both the NT 2019 Digital Excellence Awards and the Skills, Employment and Careers Expo in Darwin and Alice Springs, which are some of the largest events in the NT tech scene.

Into the new year, we're hoping to continue our successes of this financial year. We are looking forward to continuing to support our members by offering thought-provoking, insightful content and furthering the capacity and capabilities of ICT in the NT.

ACS CEO Andrew Johnson hosts the Gateway to Asia Panel event, part of the Boundless Digital Forum with the NT Government.

The ACS NT Annual Golf Day is the technology industry's social event of the year in Darwin.

Queensland

In line with the three pillars of the ACS Strategic Plan, ACS Queensland's strategic focus this year was to retain and attract new members, to harness opportunities for innovation for the profession and to drive thought-leadership for Queensland's ICT sector.

This year the ACS Queensland Branch experienced a strong member growth rate of 32.23%, for a total of 2,474 members as of 30 June 2020. This growth has been particularly strong among Professional Partners, with 12 new Professional Partners joining the society.

The ACS Queensland Branch held 42 member events in FY2019/20, with 2,856 attendees – a 100% increase in attendance from the previous year.

A strong focus on regional member engagement saw two member events delivered in Townsville (in conjunction with the North Queensland Chapter), one member event delivered in Rockhampton (in conjunction with the Central Queensland Chapter and Central Queensland University), and four member

events delivered on the Gold Coast (in conjunction with the Gold Coast Chapter and TAFE Queensland).

In total, the Queensland Branch delivered four Leaders Series events, three Fellows events, two half-day Tech and Employability Skills conferences, six deep-tech face-to-face events, and seven deep-tech webinars. Additionally, the Queensland Branch supported the national team with local delivery of the 2019 *ACS Australia's Digital Pulse* report launch and the EdXN roadshow event presented by Vertiv.

Based on the results of delegate evaluation surveys, overall member satisfaction at Queensland Branch events and webinars rated at 80% for 2019/2020.

ACS Queensland members were also extended casual use of River City Labs as a key benefit of membership. We worked collaboratively with the River City Labs team to design and deliver a well-attended Women in ICT Showcase event held during Queensland Women's Week on Monday, 9 March 2020 at RCL.

During the year we held two meetings with the office of the Hon

Michael de Brenni (QLD Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Digital Technology) in support of our state government engagement strategy. ACS Queensland actively supported the Minister's ICT advisory roundtables, where our members were invited to attend and have direct input into the development of the draft ICT Workforce Plan for Queensland.

ACS Queensland is looking forward to continuing our delivery of high-quality, face-to-face events and webinars in Brisbane and the regional centres, including an expanded regional footprint with planned events for 2021 in Toowoomba and Bundaberg. Plans are also underway for a revitalised State Conference in June 2021. Our state government engagement strategy will be further developed, with plans for an annual state-based advocacy survey to gauge the challenges and opportunities for our members at a local level. We look forward to working with our partners to provide quality education on professional services topics and genuine discounts that our members can access.

ACS Queensland worked with RCL to deliver a successful women in ICT showcase.

More regional events, like the Townsville tech and networking evening, were held this year.

South Australia

Among the many achievements for the South Australian Branch in FY2019/20, there are two that particularly stand out.

Firstly, the move to Lot Fourteen at the end of November 2019, after more than ten years in Kent Town, has given access to the host of facilities the precinct offers, including various meeting rooms and on-site event facilities, as well as placing ACS in the heart of the high-tech industry in South Australia. We're now housed alongside ventures including the Australian Institute of Machine Learning, the Australian Space Agency, Life Whisperer and 2019 Digital Disruptor Award Winner, Myriota.

Secondly, the branch has welcomed a significant number of new members over the past 12 months, with membership numbers growing over 40% this financial year.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the branch could not hold as many face-to-face events during the year,

but South Australia can look back at some significant tailored events.

The Tech and Employability Skills Half-Day Conference in September, held at the SAHMRI Auditorium, recorded the highest attendance in SA to date, with more than 130 emerging professionals in the room. It was also a pleasure to present the SA Branch Young Professional of the Year Award to the 2019 winner, Felicia Vozzo, Dandelion Program Manager at DXC Technology Australia, as part of this event. Felicia was the first female in more than 20 years to win this award in SA.

For our Professional Members, the branch continued to hold our regular Lunchtime Leaders Series, with the November event exploring the theme Talent Follows Opportunity. ACS welcomed Gavin Artz, Director of Hi-tech and Creative Industries at the SA Department for Trade, Tourism and Investment as part of a panel discussion about South Australia's thriving economic landscape and the exciting changes

taking place in South Australia.

In August 2019, the South Australian Branch held a Ministerial Roundtable adjacent to the launch of ACS Australia's Digital Pulse 2019 at the stunning Adelaide Oval. The Ministerial Roundtable brought together leaders from business and government for a Chatham House Rules discussion with the Hon David Pisoni, SA Minister for Innovation and Skills and Patron of the South Australia Branch.

As the COVID-19 pandemic took hold across Australia in the latter half of the financial year, we've assisted in bringing forth a number of initiatives, including a virtual National Event Series and the new ACS Learning Accelerator.

While 2020 has started out as a challenging year for most, ACS South Australia looks forward to being able to meet branch members face to face in some way – be that in small groups at professional development and networking events or individually.

A discussion panel at the Tech and Employability Skills Half-Day Conference.

Tasmania

In FY2019/20, ACS Tasmania took a state-wide focus on maturing the ICT innovation ecosystem through trusted partnerships that delivered thought leadership, workforce development, certifications and technical skill development initiatives.

The branch also pursued engaging and expanding membership with IT professionals working in a diverse range of activities and industries, while building and maintaining a pipeline of potential strategic partners to expand ACS' network of influencers.

As a result of this strategy, ACS Tasmania saw continual growth in its overall membership numbers and an increase in our retention percentages up to COVID-19. Overall the branch saw membership increase by 67.60% during the course of the year, one of best years on record.

We continued to hold a host of events and activities for our members, and as with the other branches, those transitioned to virtual events as social distancing and lockdowns took effect. Even large events were run virtually in the latter part of the year.

One of the highlights of the year included the development of a fully supported mentor and mentee program for the Women in ICT Pathways Program, which saw the graduation of its first cohort of students and a successful drive for a 2020 cohort.

During the year, ACS Tasmania also worked closely with the state government, having re-engaged the Minister for Science and Technology, the Hon Michael Ferguson as branch Patron. Added to this were bi-monthly meetings held with the Minister's office and an invitation to contribute to the Tasmanian ICT Workforce Action Plan.

The branch stepped up its engagement with educational institutions, including taking a position on the University of Tasmania Industry Advisory Board along with hosting the UTAS ICT Leadership Roundtable as part of the ACS Leaders Series.

ACS Tasmania was also honoured to have Hydro Tasmania join as a Professional Partner.

During the upcoming year, ACS Tasmania is looking forward to expanding understanding of ACS and its membership benefits to the greater ICT community in Tasmania. At the same time, we want to better support local ICT professionals in Tasmania and promote diversity of region, gender and age in the state.

The first participants in ACS' Women in ICT Pathways Program graduated during the year.

Victoria

This was an exciting year for the Victorian branch, with the opening of ACS' new branch facilities at our new innovation hub in Melbourne's Docklands.

One of Melbourne's most innovative collaborative workspaces, covering more than 2,000 square metres of digitally enabled floorspace, the hub was opened in July by then ACS President Yohan Ramasundara and Jane Garrett MLC, Victoria's Parliamentary Secretary for Jobs.

The hub, at 839 Collins Street, was purpose-built to drive the development of digital communities. It features private workspaces, high-tech meeting rooms, large screens and an interactive media wall. The facilities are available to ACS members along with industry and government partners.

During the year we also transitioned the ACS Victoria CoderDojo program into an ACS-led program called Tech Explorers

Holiday Program. This program allowed members to use the hub and bring their kids along to learn code and participate in other tech activities while they work.

CoderDojo is a club for 7–17-year-olds who want to learn to code. There are more than 870 CoderDojos in 65 countries around the world, including five in Melbourne.

We also continued to run events through the year, including our first Women on Boards event, which attracted a strong and diverse audience. Held ahead of this year's International Women's Day, it was attended by more than 80 industry leaders and discussed how women can equip themselves for a board role, the process of attaining a position and how to be an effective director once appointed.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ACS Victoria began a six-week social media campaign to help create awareness of changes to ACS membership and how

members could assist and support future members as we continued to navigate through difficult times. We captured a high level of engagement with the campaign, which informed followers of the six-month membership extension offer, complimentary certification assessment, and the new ACS Learning Accelerator accessible through the ACS member portal.

During FY2019/20, ACS Victoria welcomed 20 new accounts and a total of 450 new Professional Partners. While many are new faces to ACS, we were also delighted to welcome back a number of our past Partners who rejoined us after a few years' break.

In total, the branch enjoyed 34.6% growth in members on the previous financial year, and we look forward to relaunching face-to-face events post-COVID, along with increasing our focus on building satellite communities outside of the Melbourne CBD.

Management Committee member Maria Markman speaks at the launch of the new Innovation Hub.

A gathering at the new Docklands Innovation Hub.

Western Australia

ACS Western Australia's focus on expanding the capacity and lifting the capabilities of those working in the ICT profession paid off in FY2019/20. Through the year we saw substantial growth in both overall membership and in member engagement. Our membership has grown by 25.4% across all categories of membership, while member engagement has also increased by 35% over the past 12 months as event attendance has increased and more members use our online digital resources.

Another notable achievement was a significant increase in member retention. Member retention commenced the year at 56% and steadily increased over 12 months to 80%, with professional membership and professional partner membership retention up to 87% and 95% respectively.

Over the course of the 12 months, a new format of events was introduced, perhaps most notably the Half-Day Summits. The Public Sector Half-Day Summit was one of the largest events we've held, attracting 100 attendees. The Cyber Security and Young Professionals Half-Day Summits were also very well received, with both events filling to capacity. The branch also introduced regular online events that ran at lunchtime, making it easier for members to take part in while still in the office. The average attendance at these events was 116.

In addition, ACS WA ran a series of employment workshops throughout the year, designed to help students apply for jobs and prepare for interviews. These were so well received that the workshops were run three times throughout the year. There was also a new series of student roadshows for WA's University and TAFE ICT students. This has resulted in a much greater awareness of ACS among students and a 22% increase in student membership.

ACS members were well represented at the state government level during the year, with productive meetings between ACS and state MPs. Over the course of the year, meetings were held with the Hon Kate Doust, President of the Legislative Council and Hon Dave Kelly, WA Minister for Innovation and ICT. Discussions focused on how ACS can work with the WA State Government to enhance digital enablement across the entire state.

The focus of the upcoming year will be to consolidate the large growth in membership and sustain retention by ensuring the ongoing rollout of segmented communication and services. There will also be an increased focus on regional WA, with the aim of welcoming more members from areas outside of Perth.

The Hon Dave Kelly, WA Minister for Innovation (left), with WA branch manager Darren Roxburgh.

The Young Professionals Half-Day Summit was filled to capacity.
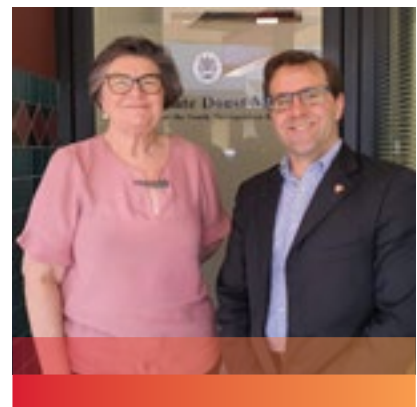
The Hon Kate Doust, President of the Legislative Council, with WA branch manager Darren Roxburgh.

In Memoriam

During the course of the year, ACS lost two of its leading lights, members who were pivotal in the early founding and success of the society. We would like to pay tribute to former ACS President Alan Coulter and Professor Arthur Sale, who was instrumental in the founding of the Tasmanian branch.

Professor Arthur Sale

One of the driving forces behind the foundation of ACS' Tasmanian branch, Professor Arthur Sale, passed away aged 79.

Born in South Africa, Arthur studied at the University of Natal (now the University of KwaZulu-Natal) and migrated to Australia with his family to join the University of Sydney's Basser Laboratory as a senior lecturer in 1969.

Shortly after his arrival, Arthur joined ACS and went on to serve on the New South Wales Executive Committee before being appointed the University of Tasmania's foundational Chair of Information Science in 1974.

The following year he was instrumental in the creation of the ACS Tasmanian Branch before going on to hold various positions from Vice Chair, committee member and Chair over the subsequent 25 years.

At the University of Tasmania, he was largely responsible for the university being one of the first in Australia, along with the University of Melbourne, to offer a full three-year degree in computer science.

In retirement, Arthur focused on his hobbies of plant tissue culture, orchid growing, wood carving, wood furniture, ship models – and glassmaking, a skill he adopted shortly after arriving in Tasmania.

Professor Sale is survived by his wife of 57 years, Elaine, and one of their two daughters.

Alan Coulter

Alan Coulter, who served as ACS President between 1985 and 1987, passed away aged 87. He was an ACS Fellow, having been granted a Fellowship in 1970. In 1986 he was appointed an Honorary Life Member.

Along with being ACS National President, Alan also served as Queensland Branch Chair in 1971 and 1972, represented Australia on various IFIP committees as well as being a longstanding member of the Queensland Royal Society and a founding and life member of the Australian Psychological Association.

Alan originally graduated with a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Queensland, and he later moved with the then Post-Master General's department (PMG) to Melbourne in 1958 as a research psychologist.

The shift to computing came after Alan attended a 1959 course demonstrating the newly created SILLIAC computer. With the support of ACS founding President John Makepeace Bennett, he became a Computer Programmer in the PMG's data processing department the following year.

After seven more years with the PMG, Alan returned to Queensland to become Brisbane City Council's Chief Data Processing Officer and, after a brief move into stockbroking, became Director of the University of Queensland's Computer Centre in 1972.

During his 24-year tenure at the University of Queensland, Alan was a driver in the development of SPEARnet – the South Pacific Educational and Research Network – launched in 1986, one of the predecessors of AARNet, Australia's first internet network.

Pamela, Alan's wife, passed away in 1998, and he is survived by his four children, Christopher, Matthew, Elizabeth and Sarah, along with eight grandchildren.

Governance

ACS is an organisation that is owned and run by its members. Our governance team, outlined in the following pages, is made up of elected officials and volunteers from right across the nation, and we appreciate all the time and effort that these people contribute to ensure that Australia has a bright future in technology.

ACS Management Committee

Dr Ian Oppermann
FACS CP
President

Mr Yohan Ramasundara
FACS CP
Immediate Past President

Mr Arnold Wong
FACS CP
National Treasurer

Mr Andrew Johnson
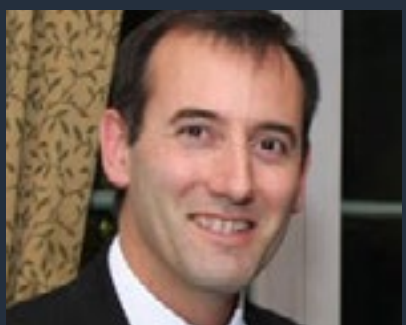MACS (Snr) CP
Chief Executive Officer

Dr Nick Tate
FACS CP
Vice President – Membership Boards

Dr Craig Horne
MACS CP Snr
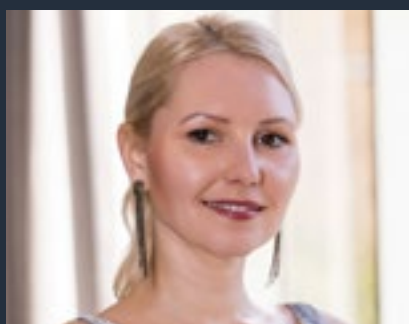Vice President – Community Boards

Prof Michael Blumenstein
FACS
Vice President – Academic Boards

Mr Andrew Crawford
MACS CP
National Congressional Representative

Mr George Coldham
MACS CP
National Congressional Representative

Ms Maria Markman
MACS CP
National Congressional Representative

Mr Mike Driver
FACS
National Congressional Representative

Dr Ian Oppermann

FACS CP
President

Ian has over 20 years' experience in the ICT sector and has led organisations with more than 300 people, delivering products and outcomes that have impacted hundreds of millions of people globally. He has held senior management roles in Europe and Australia, as Director for Radio Access Performance at Nokia, Global Head of Sales Partnering (network software) at Nokia Siemens Networks, and then Divisional Chief and Flagship Director at CSIRO. Ian is considered a thought leader in the area of the digital economy and is a regular speaker on big data, broadband-enabled services and the impact of technology on society. He has contributed to six books and co-authored more than 120 papers, which have been cited more than 3,500 times. Ian has an MBA from the University of London and a Doctor of Philosophy in Mobile Telecommunications from the University of Sydney.

Mr Yohan Ramasundara

FACS CP

Immediate Past President

Yohan is an experienced executive with a strong track record of successful achievement of business outcomes, leading high-performing teams in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors for over 15 years. Yohan is an Australian Public Service employee from Canberra. In 2017, Yohan was in the San Francisco Bay Area as the Innovation Manager International Operations for Austrade. Previously he was the Head of Governance at IP Australia and National Manager of Assurance Services at Ecowise Environmental, Australia's largest provider of integrated

environmental consulting services at the time. Yohan is the Immediate Past President of the Australian Computer Society (ACS) and the Secretary General of SEARCC (the Asia Pacific Forum for national IT professional associations). Yohan is also an international cricket umpire. A graduate of University of Canberra with ICT, accounting and finance qualifications, he was also the recipient of the prestigious University of Canberra gold leadership award at the 2005 Blues and Leadership Awards for his sporting achievements. He is currently authoring a children's storybook in his spare time.

Mr Arnold Wong

FACS CP

National Treasurer

Arnold has enjoyed a long and successful professional career in the ever-evolving ICT services industry for over 30 years. He has developed extensive strategic leadership, governance, general management, customer service and business development skills in diverse industries including technology, education, healthcare, and resources, in public and private sectors across Australia, Asia, Europe and the Americas. A Fellow of ACS, he serves as National Treasurer on the ACS Management Committee and is a member of the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) in Western Australia. Currently in the role of Information Services Manager at Pilbara Ports Authority, Arnold also served as a member of the WA Government CIO Council and chaired the Conference Logistic Committee for the 26th World Wide Web Conference (WWW2017). As a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Arnold continues to actively lead and serve in a number of not-for-profit organisations and boards.

Mr Andrew Johnson

MACS (Snr) CP
Chief Executive Officer

Andrew has extensive senior management experience servicing both the higher education and vocational education and training sectors, including membership-based professional associations. His career has seen him work in a diverse range of markets across the Asia Pacific region and includes developing accreditation and certification frameworks. In his time at ACS, he has delivered significant growth results in workforce planning and development, SFIA and education markets, all while improving member engagement, particularly among professional partners. Andrew holds a Master of Arts in Technology Policy and Management. He is an ACS Certified Professional and an accredited SFIA Consultant.

Dr Nick Tate

FACS CP
Vice President –
Membership Boards

Nick is a CEO and company director and has considerable experience at the level of CIO in two London banks and at the University of Queensland (UQ). He is co-author of *A Director's Guide to Governing Information Technology and Cybersecurity*, a book published by the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD), and has 20 years' experience as a company director in 16 Australian and two US companies. He is Chair of the Council of ICT Associations (CICTA) and chaired the World Computer Congress in 2010. He was the National President of ACS in 2012/2013. Nick is also an adjunct professor in IT and electrical engineering at UQ and has written and presented widely on cyber security, cloud computing and big data. He worked on the development

of antimissile systems and real-time air traffic control systems before spending 20 years working for investment banks in both London and Australia. He is National Vice President (Membership), Immediate Past Chair of the Queensland branch and the President of SEARCC. He holds a bachelor's degree in physics from the University of St Andrews in Scotland, a master's degree in computer science, and a PhD in cyber security. He is both a Fellow and Honorary Life Member of ACS.

Dr Craig Horne

MACS (Snr) CP
Vice President –
Community Boards

Craig was appointed to the ACS Management Committee in January 2018 and assumed the role of National Vice President with responsibility for Community Boards. He became a member of the National Congress and is assisted by the Membership Advisory Board. Craig was the Chairman of the Victorian branch of ACS from January 2015 to December 2016 and is currently its Immediate Past Chairman. Craig has more than 25 years' experience in senior management and consultancy roles in information technology in Australia, including computer science and management information systems. Craig has more than 15 years' experience as a company director including in the not-for-profit sector. His community involvement includes public speaking at technology events and volunteering for emergency services as well as charity work. He holds a Bachelor of Computer Science, a Master of Business Administration and a Doctor of Philosophy.

Prof Michael Blumenstein

FACS
Vice President – Academic Boards

Michael is currently the Head of School, Software in the Faculty of Engineering and IT at UTS. He comes from Griffith University in Queensland, where he has accumulated over a decade of experience in leadership roles including portfolio Dean (Research) of the Sciences Group and Head of the School of ICT. Michael has been ACS Gold Coast Chapter Convener and a Board Member of the Queensland BEC and has served on the Australian Research Council's College of Experts on the Engineering, Mathematics and Informatics (EMI) panel. In 2009, Michael was named as one of Australia's Top 10 Emerging Leaders in Innovation in The Australian's Top 100 Emerging Leaders Series, supported by Microsoft.

Mr Andrew Crawford

MACS CP
National Congressional
Representative

Andrew has broad experience in all aspects of strategy, operations, process improvement, risk, compliance, accounting, IT and commercial management. He has direct experience with post graduate lecturing, professional training, strategic consulting and project management. He also has industry experience in health, emergency services, education, banking, wealth management, insurance, business improvement consulting, and mergers and acquisitions. He is an experienced non-executive director and mentor supporting students, talent, startups and the not-for-profit sector.

Mr George Coldham

MACS CP
National Congressional
Representative

George is a keen advocate for the ICT profession. Dedicated to ACS, he has volunteered since 2012 and is currently Vice Chair of the WA BEC. Passionate about both technology and its use in society, he works as an educator to develop the potential of future ICT professionals.

Ms Maria Markman

MACS CP
National Congressional
Representative

Maria is Chair of ACS in Victoria and a member of the national ACS Management Committee. In the industry Maria is a connector, known for bringing people, ideas and technology solutions together across the ICT sector. She has domain expertise across disruptive technology trends, as well as software implementations in various industries. Career highlights include working on large projects undertaken by ASX 300 corporations. Maria is a passionate advocate for increased representation of women in IT, as well as broadening the general diversity of professionals working in technology.

Mr Mike Driver

FACS CP
National Congressional
Representative

Mike is currently the Director of Frontline Communication and Response for the Public Safety Business Agency, which provides ICT and other corporate services to the front-line operations of Queensland Police, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the Queensland Ambulance Services. Mike is a Fellow of ACS and the Chair of the Business Assurance Committee. Mike has also been a member of the Queensland Branch of ACS for over six years in roles of Vice Chair, Honorary Secretary and general committee member.

ACS Advisory Boards

Two years ago, ACS created three advisory boards – Membership, Profession and Technical – to help drive the direction of ACS and access the incredible knowledge base of our members. These boards are made up of expert members who volunteer their time to provide advice, input and guidance on their specific areas of knowledge. It's these committees that most commonly drive ACS' policy responses and provide insight on their areas of special expertise.

They work with the Management Committee to drive ACS' strategic priorities, and each advisory board configures the activities within its areas of responsibility. This includes creating, monitoring and dissolving committees, subcommittees and taskforces to meet ACS priorities.

Membership Advisory Board

The role of the Membership Advisory Board (MAB) is to provide leadership, oversight and advice on matters concerning the growth and retention of ACS members. The MAB provides strategic recommendations and solutions to effectively drive membership growth and maintain the satisfaction of its members.

Ms Karen Gee is the Director of the Membership Advisory Board.

The MAB consists of three subcommittees: the National Diversity and Inclusion Council (NDIC); the Honorary Life Membership Committee (HLMC); and the National Fellows Committee (NFC).

Over the past year, the MAB has provided strategic advice on matters relating to membership, from membership pricing and potential offerings, consistency of services, grades, retention and consideration of the future of ACS membership.

Other contributions and support include:

- The judging of 2019/20 Fellows, Honorary Life Member and President Award candidates.
- The revised direction and terms of the National Diversity and Inclusion Council (previously committee).
- Implementing Diversity and Inclusion – A Reference Guide (for release in 2020).

- The Breaking Barriers diversity series in Information Age.
- Review of Fellows' recognition paper considering the future of ACS membership.

While the onset of COVID-19 and associated restrictions has impacted projects, the MAB remains on schedule to complete its 2020 strategic deliverables.

National Diversity and Inclusion Council

The objective of the National Diversity and Inclusion Council is to provide leadership and strategic advice addressing workforce participation and diversity challenges related to a rapidly expanding digital economy.

Mr Sandeep Mathur is the Chair of the National Diversity and Inclusion Council.

National Fellows Committee

The purpose of the National Fellows Committee is to ensure an appropriate and common standard is applied in the assessment and evaluation of potential Fellows of the ACS and to recognise a successful nominee through the creation of an appropriate published citation.

Mr David Cook is the Chair of the National Fellows Committee.

Honorary Life Member Committee

The Honorary Life Member Committee has been established to assess any Honorary Life Membership applications and provide a recommendation to the Management Committee.

Ms Karen Gee is the Chair of the Honorary Life Member Committee.

Members of MAB and subcommittees

Membership Advisory Board

Mr Craig Horne (Vice President)
Ms Karen Gee (Director)
Mr Kevin Landale
Mr Andrew Crawford
Mr Mike Driver
Ms Maria Markman
Ms Michelle Sandford
Mr Chris Radbone
Mr Sandeep Mathur
Mr David Cook
Mr Ray Leonard (member from Feb 2020)
Mr Scott Eastaway (member to Feb 2020)

National Diversity and Inclusion Council

Mr Sandeep Mathur (Chair)
Ms Sarah Adam-Gedge
Mr Johnny Smoes
Mr George Coldham (member to Feb 2020)
Ms Joanne Canavan (member to Dec 2019)
Ms Dale Mackrell (member to Dec 2019)

National Fellows Committee

Mr David Cook (Chair)
Ms Anastasia Kuusk
Mr John Graham
Mr Murali Sagi
Mr Michael Driver
Mr Brian von Konsky (member from May 2020)
Ms Jacqueline Hartnett (member from Jun 2020)
Mr Scott Eastaway (member to Feb 2020)
Mr Tim Turner (member to Dec 2019)

Technical Advisory Board

The key role of the Technical Advisory Board (TAB) is to identify areas of priority for ACS to develop technical policy and/or technical advocacy positions; identify areas of priority for ACS' participation in external technical committees and working groups; provide recommendations for projects, activities and structures within the portfolio that will most effectively deliver on the ACS Strategic Plan outcomes; and provide expert advice and thought leadership to the ACS on matters of a technical nature.

The TAB consists of five subcommittees – Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ethics, Blockchain, Cyber Security, Data Sharing, and Internet of Things (IoT) – and also two working groups consisting of external representative members to Standards Australia and the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP).

While work did slow during the April to June quarter as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, the TAB still managed to continue to contribute substantially to the output of ACS during the financial year, including providing technical reviews for all ACS reports and the development of reports including: the *ACS Data Sharing Taskforce – Directed Ideation Report* (Aug 2019); *Privacy-Preserving Data Sharing Frameworks* (Dec 2019); and the *ACS Cyber Security Toolkit* (Apr 2020), focused on supporting individuals and small business.

The Technical Advisory Board has also delivered:

TAB advisory position papers

- ACS Advisory Position Paper – Australian Digital Health – My Health Record.
- ACS Advisory Position Paper – Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment (Assistance and Access Act 2018) Encryption Act.
- ACS Advisory Position Paper – Minimum Standards for IoT Security in Smart City Deployments.
- ACS Advisory Position Paper – TraceTogether Mobile Application (COVIDSafe).

TAB government submission papers

- Financial Tech and Regulatory Tech Federal Senate Inquiry Review (Oct 2019).
- National Data Commissioner: Discussion Paper & Privacy Impact Assessment about Data Sharing & Release reforms (Oct 2019).
- Department of Home Affairs: Australia's 2020 Cyber Security Strategy (Nov 2019).
- Western Australian Government – Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing (Nov 2019).

TAB featured events

- ACS Data Sharing Directed Ideation Workshop Competition Series:
  - 3 Jul 2019: Round 1 workshop.
  - 10 Jul 2019: Round 2 workshop.
  - 17 Jul 2019: Final round and judging.
- Artificial Intelligence NSW Summit Lead Up Masterclass Series
  - 12 Nov 2019: The challenges of building trust with Theresa Anderson.
  - 15 Nov 2019: AI Masterclass – Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Technical Masterclass with Richard Xu.
  - 18 Nov 2019: Data Governance for Good AI with Peter Leonard and Kimberlee Weatherall.
  - 20 Nov 2019: Human Rights, Law and Ethics with Ed Santow and Verity Firth.
  - 25 Nov 2019: Data Analytics and AI – Technical Case Studies with HCL Residents Gronade, Data Insite, Faethm, Harrison.ai, Unleash and Virtual Method.
  - 27 Nov 2019: AI Masterclass – AI and Society with Chris Vein.
- Privacy Masterclass Series
  - 29 Apr 2020: Data and Privacy.
  - 30 Apr 2020: Building Public Trust in Data Collection, Storage & Use.
  - 4 May 2020: Data Privacy in an Algorithm Enabled World.
  - 6 May 2020: Privacy Enhancing Technology.

Members of TAB and subcommittees

Technical Advisory Board
Dr Ian Oppermann (Vice President Jul 2019 to Feb 2020)
Prof Michael Blumenstein (Director Jul 2019 to Apr 2020, Vice President May 2020 to Jun 2020)
Dr David Cook (Director from Jun 2020)
Mr Geof Heydon
Ms Ghislaine Entwisle
Prof Kimberlee Weatherall
Mr Louay Ghashash
Dr Maria Milosavljevic
Mr Peter Leonard
Mr Tom Zorde
Dr Vincent Gramoli

Artificial Intelligence Ethics Committee
Mr Peter Leonard (Chair)
Prof Kimberlee Weatherall
Prof Hussein Abbass
Ms Katie Payten
Dr Kelvin Ross
Prof Maurice Pagnucco
Ms Rosalyn Bell
Dr Rob Nicolls
Dr Shlomo Berkovsky
Prof Simeon Simoff
Prof Toby Walsh

Blockchain Committee
Dr Vincent Gramoli (Chair)
Mr Ambarish Natu
Prof Ren Ping Liu
Mr Samuel Brooks
Mr Steven Pereira
Mr Tom Worthington

Cyber Security Committee
Dr Maria Milosavljevic (Chair)
Mr Louay Ghashash (Vice Chair)
Mr Ajoy Ghosh Assoc.
Mr Dilip Samji
Mr John Graham
Mr Matthew Warren
Assoc Prof Paul Haskell-Dowland
Mr Sudheera Edirisinghe

Prof William Caelli

Data Sharing Committee
Mr Geof Heydon (Chair)
Ms Ghislaine Entwisle (Vice Chair)
Mr Chris Radbone
Mr Ghazi Ahamat
Dr Stephen Hardy
Mr Stuart Ainsworth
Dr Wenjie Zhang

Internet of Things (IoT) Committee
Mr Tom Zorde (Chair)
Mr Alastair Pearson
Prof Arkady Zaslavsky
Mr Dimitrios Georgakopoulos
Prof Michael Sheng
Mr Neil Temperley
Mr Peter Runcie
Dr Phil Robertson

International Federation of Information Processing (IFIP) Representatives
Mr Yohan Ramasundara (Australian Representative to IFIP and IP3 Jan 2020 to Jun 2020)
Mr Anthony Wong (Australian Representative to IFIP and IP3 Jul 2019 to Dec 2019)
Prof Artur Lugmary
Dr Dale Mackrell
Dr Marcus Belder
Prof Oliver Burmeister
Assoc Prof Paul Haskell-Dowland
Mrs Sharon Singh
Prof Simeon Simoff
Mr Ted Smillie

Standards Australia Representatives
Mr Ajoy Ghosh
Mr Andrew Johnson
Ms Gandhi Sivakumar
Mr George Nikandros
Mr John Graham
Dr Jon Mason
Ms Judith Ellis
Ms Lynn Warneke
Ms Katie Payten
Prof Michael Blumenstein
Mr Neville Turbit
Assoc Prof Paul Haskell-Dowland
Mr Samuel Brooks
Mr Vipula Godamunne

Profession Advisory Board

The role of the Profession Advisory Board (PAB) is to work with the National Office to drive professionalism in ICT, providing review of, strategic advice on, and guidance for current and future ACS programs and activities that relate to professional standards. The PAB provides recommendations for projects, activities and structures within the portfolio that will most effectively deliver on the ACS Strategic Plan outcomes and provides expert advice and thought leadership to the ACS on matters related to professional standards.

The PAB consists of four subcommittees – Accreditation (AC), Ethics (EC), ICT Educators (ICTEC) and Professional Education Governance (PEGC, to Dec 2019). The PAB also provides representation on IFIP TC3 (Education) and the Board of the Australian Council for Computers in Education (ACCE).

While COVID-19 restrictions had some impact in 2020, over the past year the PAB has contributed substantially to ACS professional standards activities including:

- Determinations on university accreditation and supplementary visit matters.
- Advice on accreditation reform and accreditation of Cyber Security and Data Science degrees.
- Input to continuing professional development (CPD) for ACS members in professional ethics.
- Initial comment on certification and professional membership.
- Review of the ACS Code of Conduct.
- Input to the ACS ICT Educators Community of Practice.
- Feedback and advice on ACS educational offerings including microcredentials.
- Review of and advice on the ACS Professional Standards Scheme.

The PAB has also provided review and/or input to:

- The ICT Training Package Product Review – Getting a Job in IT.
- IRC Announcement of ICT Strategic VET changes – Industry Virtual Roundtable.
- Productivity Commission issues paper – National Agreement Skills and Workforce Development (NASWD).
- Proposed IFIP global Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.
- ACS Advisory Position Paper – TraceTogether (COVIDSafe).

Members of PAB and subcommittees

Profession Advisory Board
Dr Nick Tate (Vice President)
Prof Michael Johnson (Director)
Dr Anna Yang
Prof Caroline Chan
Mr Keith Besgrove
Mr Keith Sherringham
Dr Kirsten Wahlstrom
Dr Michael Wildenauer
Mr Steve Godbee
Mr Tom Cleary

Accreditation Committee
Prof Caroline Chan (Chair)
Prof Chris Pilgrim
Dr Jan Newmarch
Prof Leon Stirling (member to Dec 2019)
Dr Marta Indulska (member to Nov 2019)
Prof Matt Warren
Dr Paul Strooper

Ethics Committee
Dr Michael Wildenauer (Chair)
Dr Kirsten Wahlstrom (Vice Chair)
Prof Alex Reid
Dr Anisha Fernandez
Mr Georg Thomas
Prof Oliver Burmeister
Mr Philip Argy
Mr Royce Michael Lee

ICT Educators Committee
Dr Nick Tate (Chair)
Dr Andrew Fluck
Mr Ben Paparoulas
Mr Karl Easton
Mrs Sharon Singh
Ms Sue Isbell

Professional Education Governance Committee (to Dec 2019)
Prof Michael Johnson (Chair)
Prof Aileen Cater-Steel
Mr Geoff Purcell
Mr Nick Marks
Mr Stuart McIntyre
Mr Tom Worthington

ACS Congress

Congress is an advisory body to the ACS Management Committee and consists of the National Office Bearers (President, Vice Presidents, National Treasurer and Immediate Past President), the Directors, the Congressional Representatives and the Chief Executive Officer.

Congress performs a vital role in providing advice to the Management Committee on strategic planning and otherwise for the betterment of the Society.

Congress is also responsible for electing the National Office Bearers and Board Directors.

Members as at 30 June 2020

Dr Ian Oppermann	President
Mr Yohan Ramasundara	Immediate Past President
Mr Arnold Wong	National Treasurer
Mr Andrew Johnson	Chief Executive Officer
Dr Craig Horne	Vice President – Community Boards
Prof Michael Blumenstein	Vice President – Academic Boards
Dr Nick Tate	Vice President – Membership Boards
Ms Karen Gee	Director – Membership Advisory Board
Prof Michael Johnson	Director – Profession Advisory Board
Mr David Cook	Director – Technical Advisory Board
Mr Andrew Crawford	Congressional Representative (NSW)
Ms Conni Marais	Congressional Representative (NSW)
Ms Maria Markman	Congressional Representative (VIC)
Ms Ghislaine Entwisle	Congressional Representative (VIC)
Mr Michael Driver	Congressional Representative (QLD)
Vacant	Congressional Representative (QLD)
Ms Michelle Sandford	Congressional Representative (WA)
Mr George Coldham	Congressional Representative (WA)
Mr Benjamin Smith	Congressional Representative (NT)
Vacant	Congressional Representative (NT)
Mr Ray Leonard	Congressional Representative (TAS)
Mr Jonathon McComb	Congressional Representative (TAS)
Ms Jo Stewart-Rattray	Congressional Representative (SA)
Mr Chris Radbone	Congressional Representative (SA)
Mr Kevin Landale	Congressional Representative (CANB)
Mr Michael Hawkins	Congressional Representative (CANB)

ACS Branch Executive Committees

As at 30 June 2020

Canberra

Chair
Kevin Landale MACS CP

Immediate Past Chair
Michael Hawkins MACS CP

Honorary Secretary
Mr Doug Hill MACS CP

Honorary Treasurer
Mr Jeffory Mitchell MACS (Snr) CP

Committee Members
Ms Shefali Sehgal AACS
Mr Chakradhar Ravinuthala MACS
Mr Gavin Fairlamb MACS (Snr)
Ms Justine Spina MACS (Snr) CP
Mr Martin Comans MACS CP
Mr Manik Mahajan AACS

New South Wales

Chair
Vacant

Immediate Past Chair
Mr Andrew Crawford MACS CP

Vice Chair
Mr Craig Baty MACS (Snr) CP

Honorary Secretary
Vacant

Honorary Treasurer
Ms Cindy Chung MACS CT

Committee Members
Assoc Prof Ana Hol AACS
Mr Christopher Payne MACS (Snr)
Mr Harpal Degun MACS (Snr) CP
Mr Phil Redding AACS

Northern Territory

Chair
Vacant

Immediate Past Chair
Mr Scott Eastaway MACS CP

Vice Chair
Vacant

Honorary Secretary
Vacant

Honorary Treasurer
Vacant

Committee Members
Vacant

Queensland

Chair
Vacant

Immediate Past Chair
Mr Mike Driver FACS CP

Vice Chair
Vacant

Honorary Secretary
Vacant

Honorary Treasurer
Vacant

Committee Members
Vacant

South Australia

Chair
Mr Chris Radbone MACS (Snr) CP

Vice Chair
Ms Jo Stewart-Rattray FACS CP

Vice Chair
Ms Cate Hilliard MACS (Snr) CP

Honorary Secretary
Dr Anastasia Kuusk FACS

Honorary Treasurer
Mr John Bonnett MACS (Snr)

Committee Members
Mr Peter Griffith MACS (Snr) CP
Mr Yohan Dhanushka De Silva
MACS CT
Mr Ewan Mark AACS

Tasmania

Chair
Mr Ray Leonard MACS CP IP3P

Honorary Secretary
Mrs Jacky Hartnett MACS (Snr)
CP IP3P

Honorary Treasurer
Mr Jonathan McComb MACS CP
IP3P

Committee Members
Ms Caroline Snadden AACS
Mr Tony Cruise AACS
Ms Marina Geldard AACS

Mr Adam Gordon AACS
Dr Kenneth Price MACS (Snr) CP
IP3P
Mr Mitch Thors AACS
Dr Paris Buttfield-Addison AACS
Mr Shaun Hevey AACS
Mr David Griffiths AACS

Victoria

Chair
Ms Maria Markman MACS CP

Immediate Past Chair
Dr Craig Horne MACS (Snr) CP

Committee Members
Mr Steven Pereira MACS (Snr) CP
Ms Ghislaine Entwisle AACS
Ms Cynthia Lee MACS CP
Karen Gee MACS (Snr) CP

Western Australia

Chair
Michelle Sandford MACS (Snr) CP

Vice Chair
George Coldham MACS CP

Vice Chair
Rebecca Waters MACS CP

Immediate Past Chair
Tony Errington FACS CP

Honorary Secretary
David Cook FACS CP

Honorary Treasurer
John Walczak MACS

Committee Members
Arnold Wong FACS CP
Anthony Sciorilli AACS
Matt Moncrieff AACS
Ming Johanson MACS CP
Brian von Konsky FACS CP
Vito Forte MACS CP
Dr Leisa Armstrong MACS

Honorary Life Members

To be eligible for classification as an Honorary Life Member, a member must have rendered exceptional and distinguished service to ACS by playing an active and commendable part in the affairs of ACS for at least ten years.

Two Honorary Life Memberships were awarded in this financial year:

John Price
Yohan Ramasundara

Fellows

Under the ACS National Regulations, a Fellow is a person who has made a distinguished contribution to the field of Information Technology (IT) in Australia. 'Distinguished contribution' refers to a notable, recognised and positive influence within the IT community, above and beyond normal expectations.

Four Fellow regrades were awarded this year:

Paulo De Souza
Wayne Fitzsimmons
Chris Radbone
Ian Warner

President's Awards

The ACS President's Award is awarded quarterly in recognition of notable volunteer contributions to ACS and the technology professions. There is also an annual winner chosen from the quarterly winners.

As volunteer contributions are often made through consistent effort over a long period, the award recognises contributions made over the period of a year prior to the quarter in which the award is given.

2020 Q1 winner
Pranithchander Kyatham

2020 Q2 winner
Beau Tydd

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