



Annual Report 2019



ACS has been Australia's peak professional body for the ICT profession for more than 50 years and now boasts more than 44,000 members.

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.

Our presence as a professional body continues to grow, and whether it is through our enhanced program of professional development or our increased focus on innovation, the outcome is positive for our profession in Australia.

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 scale-ups.

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.**

“The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.” These words, spoken by Albert Einstein in the 40s, are as relevant today as they were then. And in the past decade, in the past year especially, ACS has been changing its thinking a great deal.

It was a year of transformation for ACS. Perhaps never before in our history has so much change occurred in so little time as we work harder than ever to achieve our strategic goals. We've continued to offer the same professional development and accreditation services to our members, but we've massively expanded our aims and services. We've begun looking more outward, to how we can use what resources we have to supercharge ICT in Australia, and we hope we've hit on a winning formula.

At the core of our strategy, we still have the 'Three Cs' plan that we began in 2017. The Three Cs refers to Capability, Capacity and Catalyst.

In terms of capability, we're still committed to ensuring that Australia's ICT professionals are the best in the world. We've continued and expanded our accreditation and skills programs – programs that ensure Australian professionals are recognised worldwide.



In terms of capacity, we have extensive educational outreach programs that engage our members and the education sector. In the past year we've worked with schools and tertiary institutions as well as businesses looking to upskill their workforce. We've run events and engagement programs for young students, and provided scholarships for disadvantaged students who might have the will and talent but not the opportunity to excel in technology.

But it's the third C, catalyst, where we've really changed the game. This year, we stopped just talking about startups, and began helping them.

### **Energising startups**

We believe that startups are a huge part of the future of ICT in Australia. The sector in our country has been growing at a tremendous rate, and there's a level of excitement around it that I've never seen before. There are real prospects for Australia to become a major player in tech startups, hopefully eventually being

talked about in the same breath as Israel, Korea and the US.

We wanted to get involved and do our part, so this year we purchased the successful incubator River City Labs and are well on our way to expanding the franchise. Originally based in Brisbane, we're in the process of bringing it to Sydney and Melbourne as well. As part of the purchase, we also acquired Startup Catalyst, an organisation that helps aspiring entrepreneurs get critical experience with the world of startups.

### **Engaging advisory boards**

Another area that we have massively improved in the past year is our government and policy engagement. Throughout the course of the year the government has launched many technology bills, and not all of them have been popular. When it has come to the Assistance and Access Bill, My Health Record and many other policies of note, we have been actively communicating with the government, expressing the views and concerns of the technology industry.

We want to properly represent the views of our members, so in 2018 we created a set of member advisory boards covering major areas of interest. These advisory boards comprise volunteer experts in

various fields, allowing us to draw on the massive knowledge base of our members. And we've been making them work hard, with policy advisory positions and papers covering topics from the application of Digital Technologies education in schools, to government blockchain policy, and the safe sharing of data between business and government.

### **Incorporation**

Finally, we have taken huge steps in an incredibly important program for the future of ACS: incorporation. ACS will still be owned and operated by its members, but the new governance model will allow us to be much more flexible with respect to how we allocate resources in the future. We're still finalising the new governance model, but you can be certain of one thing – ACS is and will always be an organisation run by and for our members.

Even with all the changes at ACS, that's our guiding star – how do we best serve our members, and what can we do better to serve them and the cause of the technology profession in Australia? We thank you so much for taking this journey with us, and most especially those who volunteer their time to help others succeed in an often difficult and changing industry.

### **Yohan Ramasundara**

FACS CP  
President

# Treasurer's Report



Continuing with our focus on the ACS' strategic pillars – Capacity, Capability, Catalyst – FY2018/19 has been a year of growing the investments in our membership and the technology profession.

At the same time, we have been preparing for ACS to become a company limited by guarantee to ensure it meets the current and future needs of our members, as well as to bring it in line with contemporary governance practice, legislative and fiscal requirements. This will ultimately improve the agility and effectiveness of ACS by enabling it to deliver contemporary and relevant products and services.

The pinnacle of ACS' investments during the financial year was the acquisition of leading Queensland-based startup catalyst and incubator River City Labs, which included the operations of the River City Labs Accelerator and Startup Catalyst. This goes hand in hand with the ongoing investment in ACS' new high-tech innovation hub Harbour City Labs in Sydney and similar planned establishment of Bay City Labs in Melbourne.

For my third financial report, I am proud to confirm that we have

continued to grow our net asset base to \$29.56m while achieving a surplus of \$4.30m in FY2018/19.

In my opinion, the accompanying accounts give an accurate and fair view of the affairs of ACS as at 30 June 2019, and of its statement of comprehensive income for the year ending on that date, prepared in accordance with properly maintained financial records of ACS. It should be noted that we continue our strong and prudent financial stewardship by our elected stakeholders and secretariat, and we thank them for it.

Finally, thank you to 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 my thanks to our 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.

The sound financial position we have established during the past few years from our focus on fiscal governance and stewardship of ACS' resources has prepared the solid foundation for ACS to become a company limited by guarantee as we continue to empower Australian innovation.

**Arnold Wong**  
BSc FACS CP IP3P GAICD  
National Treasurer



# CEO's Report



“ We have a simple economic philosophy: if we have a growing technology ecosystem both in terms of capacity and capability, all boats rise. Conversely, there are risks to the Australia economy and our nation’s standards of living if we experience a shrinking ecosystem of technology professionals. ”

The highlights reel from the last 12 months has been incredible, to such an extent that I firmly believe it has been ACS’ best year ever. These outcomes are well documented throughout the Annual Report. Being two years into a five-year strategy, and at the risk of repeating myself from last year, I am going to apply the communications rule of seven – that your message needs to be heard seven times before it is really noticed.

There are three pillars to the ACS strategy:

- **Capacity** – expanding the number of people working in the tech profession in Australia.
- **Capability** – lifting the skills of people working in the profession so that they secure higher paying jobs.
- **Catalyst** – being a conduit for sparking innovation and helping create new opportunities and use technology to transform processes and reimagine customer experiences.

Catalyst for us means the innovative creation and adoption

of technology. It is also reflective that jobs growth in any modern economy comes from startups and scaleups. It was this understanding that piqued our initial interest and eventual acquisition of River City Labs and Startup Catalyst.

We have a simple economic philosophy: if we have a growing tech profession and technology ecosystem both in terms of capacity and capability, all boats rise. Conversely, there are risks to the Australia economy and our nation’s standards of living if we

experience a shrinking ecosystem of technology professionals.

A real highlight has been witnessing the residents in Harbour City Labs scaling their turnover ten-fold in just 12 months, exceeding \$20m in revenue as of 30 June 2018. The talent in the Lab is truly incredible. Their missions are especially inspiring when you consider Harrison AI improving patient fertility outcomes in IVF treatments, Faethm AI forecasting automation and workforce transition impacts during the fourth industrial revolution, Unleash Live with live AI analytics for safety critical infrastructure, and Gronade for automation in banking.

A standout moment for me personally was Kevin Brown, from Harbour City Labs resident Tech Insite, participating on the panel for our Blockchain 2030 report release. Kevin's deep technical insights

coupled with dry humour kept all attendees on the edge of their seats.

Our innovation labs have been an important investment. We offer start-ups support to address two critical barriers:

- Access to customers – we have 45,000 members working in technology and looking for solutions to real-world problems, and a digital magazine – Information Age – with over 180,000 annual visitors with which to share success stories and inspire others.
- Access to talent – our strong relationships with the university sector through university technology degrees accreditation and our ability to facilitate work-integrated learning and student placements with startups.

There has also been a real lift in thought leadership outputs, as indicated in our Publications section. I would like to thank our

advisory boards and committees for their willingness to investigate the big challenges and offer their insights into these areas more broadly across the membership and the community.

A special thank you to Management Committee, Congress and our Branch Executive Committees for their ambition and drive to see ACS perform a pivotal role in Australia's transformation to a knowledge economy. Also, thanks to our staff for their dedication in supporting our members and the profession more broadly. It has been a big year, one that the entire ACS community should be proud of.

**Andrew Johnson**  
MACS (Snr) CP  
Chief Executive Officer

# Membership

As Australia's leading professional association and peak body for the tech sector, ACS' vision is for Australia to be a world leader in technology talent that fosters innovation and creates new forms of value.

To realise this vision, our mission is to deliver authoritative independent knowledge and insight into technology; to build relevant technology capacity and capability in Australia; and to be a catalyst for innovative creation and adoption of technology for the benefit of commerce, governments and society.

FY2018/19 was a groundbreaking year for ACS and our members, and the second year of delivery of ACS' 2017-2022 Strategic Plan. It

was a year where significant steps were taken towards achieving the objectives of this plan, and a year of new opportunities for ACS and our members.

Membership increased for a fourth consecutive year, growing by nearly 7% to 44,784 members.

There were 550 physical and virtual professional development initiatives, thought leadership activities and advocacy projects undertaken both by the Branch and National Secretariat Teams. A total of 20,494 members and guests attended these activities, and for many members, physical in-person connections continue to remain a key value proposition.

At the same time, 17,659 members accessed and used ACS digital assets through our website member area, which included live streams and virtual events. Not included in this figure are several activities undertaken through various public platforms such as Facebook, Periscope and YouTube.

New capabilities, products and services developed in FY2018/19 have laid strong foundations for ACS to further strengthen its relationships with key stakeholders across industry, government, research organisations and education institutions, creating new forms of value for our members.



Skills and Employability Young Professionals Half Day Conference.

## Improving ACS branch offices to improve our member experience.

ACS' commitment to updating our branch offices and shopfronts for our members continued in FY2018/19. This follows our Tasmanian and New South Wales branches relocating to improved offices in FY2017/18, which allowed ACS members to engage with other ACS members, startup community members and the ACS team in high-tech-enabled collaborative spaces.

In October 2018, our Northern Territory branch relocated to the Darwin Innovation Hub (DIH) which is home to the Northern Territory's leading incubator, co-working space and premier conference centre. There are over 50 startups, associations, private organisations and government agencies located at DIH, and several opportunities for members to attend professional development events, workshops and activities.

Following ACS' acquisition of Steve Baxter's River City Labs and

Startup Catalyst businesses in September 2018, our Queensland branch moved into its new home at River City Labs in February 2019. Now at Queensland's leading accelerator and co-working space, our Queensland team and their new colleagues have begun to develop activities to help both established communities to come together.



ACS' new NT Branch Office in the Darwin Innovation Hub.



The first EdXN member event hosted in the Darwin Innovation Hub.



ACS, River City Labs and Startup Catalyst teams at the Queensland office.

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## Investing in our members and our future

In addition to serving our existing members, ACS has been working to ensure the next generation of technology professionals has the best possible path into the industry. This year we awarded additional scholarships, including the following.

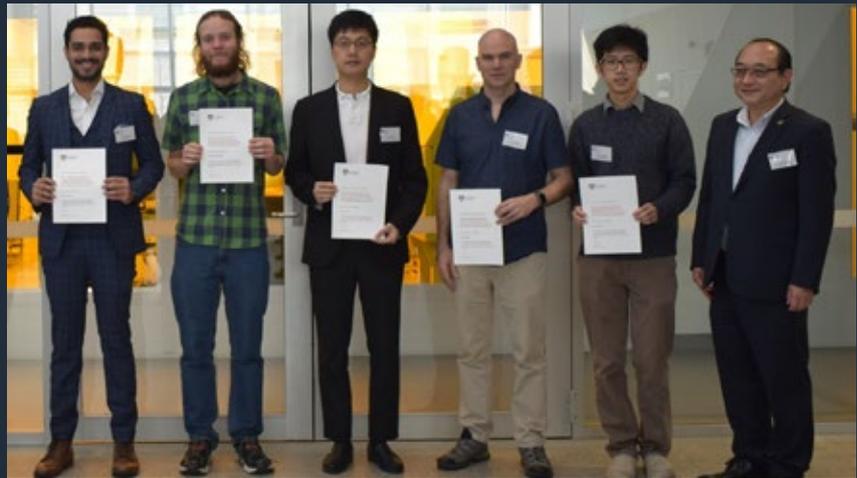
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### ACS John Makepeace Bennett scholarships

In August 2018, in partnership with the University of Sydney, Past President Anthony Wong attended the annual awarding of the John Makepeace Bennett scholarships.

This was the second year of the endowed scholarship program, continuing the postgraduate scholarship program named after ACS' founding president.

Six PhD students were awarded scholarships to recognise and support their cutting-edge work being undertaken at the University of Sydney Nano Institute.



John Makepeace Bennett scholarship recipients Jayson Waters, Paul Webster, Jianfu Wang, David Tuckett and Henry Yeung, along with ACS Immediate Past President Anthony Wong.

### ACS Indigenous Information Technology Scholarship

In September 2018, ACS announced the establishment of an endowed Indigenous Information Technology Scholarship at Charles Darwin University, to support and showcase indigenous achievement in IT studies.

The scholarship was announced at Uluru with ACS CEO Andrew Johnson, ACS President Yohan Ramasundara, NT Labor Party member Chanston Paech and Sky News' Warren Mundine. Matthew Heffernan was announced as the inaugural winner of the scholarship.



Matthew Heffernan, winner of the inaugural ACS Indigenous IT Scholarship.



ACS President Yohan Ramasundara announcing the endowed Indigenous IT Scholarship partnership with Charles Darwin University on *Mundine Means Business*.

# Member Events & Activities

In the past year, ACS has produced more than 500 events, from huge national events to smaller state-based professional development seminars and gatherings. We've also released more than ten major new reports and guides in the same period, produced masses of media coverage for the industry and the organisation and developed new programs for startups and scale-ups.

Here's a quick look at some of the things we've been doing for you in the last financial year.

# REIMAGINATION

THOUGHT LEADERS' SUMMIT 2018

**Reimagination returned for its fourth year, with over 1,300 delegates attending the Thought Leaders' Summit. The Summit was followed by the ACS Digital Disruptors Awards and gala dinner on 1 November 2018.**

Reimagination is a culmination of thought leadership and industry insights that are designed to promote and champion the ICT sector throughout the year.

Supported by the Victorian Government, in 2018 the Reimagination Thought Leaders' Summit and ACS Digital Disruptors Awards moved to the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The Summit brought together a mix of leading Australian and international thought leaders from industry, government, education and startup sectors on a national stage. It facilitated a two-way conversation about the impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Online, the event received over 1.3 million impressions across Australia. On 1 November, the hashtags #Reimagination and #Disruptors both trended at number one on Twitter throughout the course of the day. The TV channel Your Money filmed throughout the evening, including interviews with industry leaders about how they interpreted the theme of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Your Money media personality James Daggar-Nickson also conducted short, sharp interviews with the winners of the Digital Disruptors Awards.

ACS CEO Andrew Johnson was the emcee and host for the Summit. There were two international keynote speakers: Professor Andrew McAfee, co-founder of the MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy and Centre for Digital Business, MIT Sloan School of Management; and Lyndsey Scott, model, actress, and app developer.

Professor McAfee shared his insights on changing business models in a time of disruption and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Scott shared her journey of becoming an app developer and inspiring more women to get into STEM.

There were five panel sessions, each exploring a different facet of business acumen in a disruptive landscape. One of the panels discussed a company board's outlook towards investing in new technologies. It featured industry heavyweights Angus

Armour, Managing Director and CEO of the Australian Institute of Company Directors; Yasmin Allen, Non-Executive Director of the ASX, Santos and Cochlear; Ajay Bhatia, Managing Director, Consumer Business at Carsales.com; and Peter James, Chairman of Macquarie Telecom Group, Nearmap and DroneShield.

Another area of focus was around how disruption can create value in the digital world. This panel discussion had Steve Baxter, investor and founder of Transition Level Investments; Suzy Nicoletti, Managing Director of Twitter Australia; Kumar Parakala, Global Digital Leader at GHD Digital; and Kylie Merritt, CEO of Your Money.

Other key panel themes discussed the need for expediting Australia's digital transformation, building capability to succeed in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and how emerging tech can transform your business model.

The ACS Digital Disruptors Awards followed the Summit. The awards celebrate those Australian individuals and team projects that are at the forefront of disruption across government, industry, NFP, research, education and startup sectors. Awards were given out across 14 categories this year, two more categories than last year.



Keynote speaker Andrew McAfee.



Keynote speaker Lyndsey Scott.



Panel: A Company Board's Perspective.



Panel: Expediting Australia's Digital Transformation.



Panel: Disrupting to Create Value in the Digital World.



Panel: Building Capability to Succeed in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.



Panel: Emerging Tech and Transforming Your Business Model.



ACS President Yohan Ramasundara with the Hon Terri Butler MP and Lyndsey Scott.



# ACS DIGITAL DISRUPTORS AWARDS

## Individual Award Winners

**ICT Professional of the Year**

Dheeren Velu (CBA Strategic IT)

**CXO Disruptor of the Year**

Emma Lo Russo (Digivizer)

**ICT Young Professional of the Year (Male)**

Patrick Stoddart (DXC)

**ICT Young Professional of the Year (Female)**

Chloe Skafte (CBRE)

**ICT Student of the Year**

Steve Nouri (UTS)

**ICT Educator of the Year**

Ana Hol (Western Sydney University)

**ICT Researcher of the Year**

Joseph Liu (Monash University)

## Team Award Winners

**Service Transformation for the Digital Consumer**

**Corporate**

AGL

**Government**

Northern Territory Government – Department of Corporate and Information Services & Department of Health

**Not for Profit**

Royal Life Saving Society WA & Diversus

**Skills Transformation of Work Teams**

**Small (under 20)**

BDO Australia

**Medium (21-200)**

Perth Internet of Things

**Large (over 200)**

Edith Cowan University

**Best New Disruptive Tech Platform**

Staybil Workforce



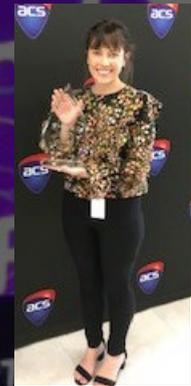
ICT Professional of the Year, Dheeren Velu.



CXO Disruptor of the Year, Emma Lo Russo.



ICT Young Professional of the Year (Male), Patrick Stoddart.



ICT Young Professional of the Year (Female), Chloe Skafte.



ICT Student of the Year, Steve Nouri.



ICT Educator of the Year, Ana Hol.



ICT Researcher of the Year, Joseph Liu.



Service Transformation for the Digital Consumer, Corporate, AGL.



Service Transformation for the Digital Consumer, Government, Northern Territory Government.



Service Transformation for the Digital Consumer, Not for Profit, Royal Life Saving Society WA & Diversus.



Skills Transformation of Work Teams, Small, BDO Australia.



Skills Transformation of Work Teams, Medium, Perth Internet of Things.



Skills Transformation of Work Teams, Large, Edith Cowan University.



Skills Transformation of Work Teams, Large, Staybil Workforce.

# ACS National Brand Awareness Campaign

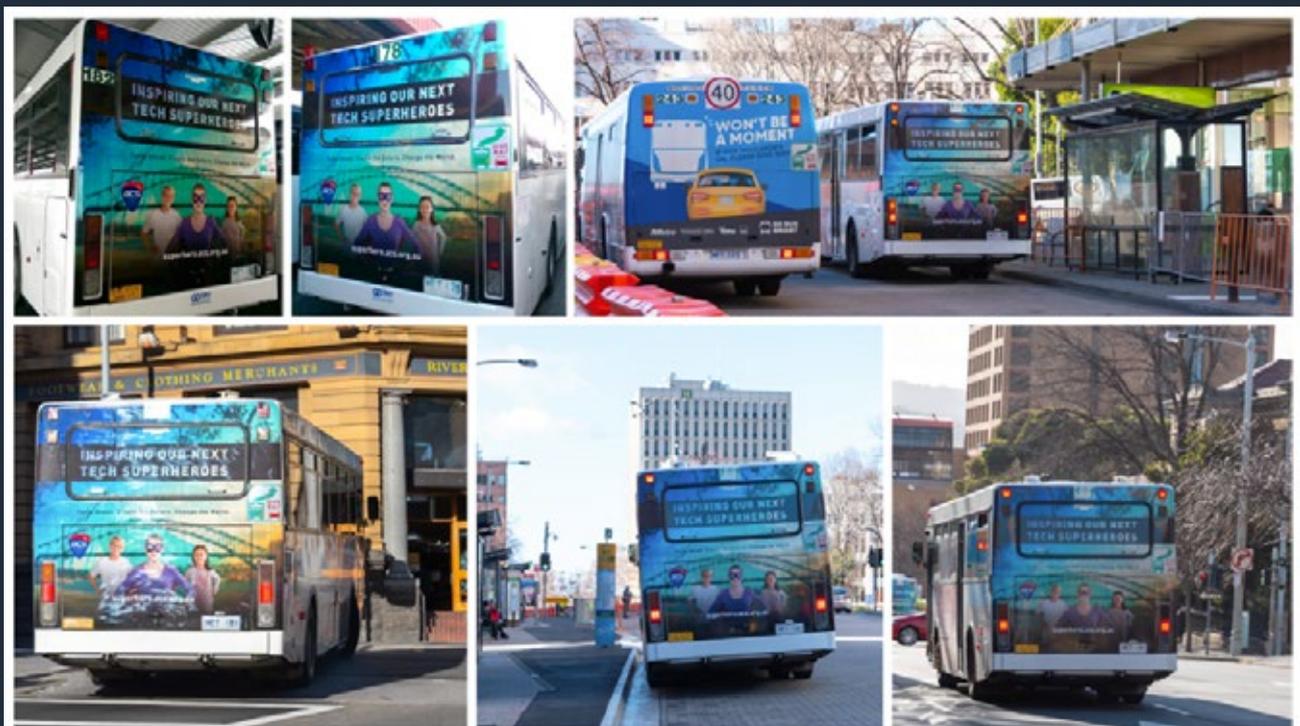
**Supporting thought leadership and advocacy for our sector and profession.**

ACS' national brand awareness campaign, titled 'Inspiring Our Next Tech Superheroes: Think Ahead. Create the Future. Change the World', ran from April 2018 to October 2018.

Featuring a slightly older hero than the 2017 campaign it followed, it aimed to guide younger children, parents and educators to take action to create our future, by encouraging our next generation to consider a career in technology.

It was intended to be a highly visible public profile campaign to raise awareness of ACS' profile, with visibility across TV, airport, public transport, billboards, and digital and social channels.

The successful brand awareness campaign demonstrated proven recall of the ACS brand, furthering our vision for Australia to become a world leader in technology talent, fostering innovation and creating new forms of value.



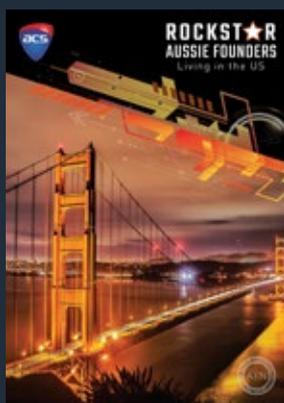


# Publications

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

ACS is at the forefront of thought leadership publications in Australia, from its critical *Digital Pulse* report that covers the state of ICT in the nation to technical white papers and policy recommendations. In the past year ACS has produced more publications than at any time in its history, with more than a dozen major publications and numerous smaller pieces.

Some of the major publications are detailed on the following pages. All are available to download for free from the ACS website ([acs.org.au](http://acs.org.au)).



## **ACS Australia's Digital Pulse 2018**

Following a national launch event for *ACS Australia's Digital Pulse 2018* at Parliament House in Canberra in June 2018 by the Hon Michael Keenan, Minister for Human Services and Digital Transformation, the report went on to be launched in every state and territory across Australia. These events were attended and launched by the following politicians: SA – The Hon Emily Bourke MLC, The Hon Dr Richard Harvey MP and The Hon Justin Hanson MLC; NT – The Hon Lauren Moss MLA; TAS – The Hon Michael Ferguson MP; NSW – The Hon Jonathan O’Dea MP; QLD – The Hon Mick de Brenni MP; VIC – The Hon Phillip Dalidakis MP; and in WA – Senator The Hon Michaelia Cash.

## **Australia's IoT Opportunity: Driving Future Growth**

The first of its kind in Australia, this report takes a broad economic and business view of the IoT opportunity for Australia over the next decade. It assesses the technology’s revenue and cost implications on the industries most likely to benefit from it: construction, mining, manufacturing, healthcare and agriculture. It also considers the opportunities for developing the IoT industry (as a subset of the broader ICT sector) in Australia and looks at the cyber security risks associated with increased uptake of IoT technology.

## **Artificial Intelligence: A Starter Guide to the Future of Business**

In December, ACS held a launch event at the ACS Innovation Hub in Barangaroo, attended by some of the leading AI startups in Australia. The report shares insights about the uptake and usage of AI, in practical terms, by the business community.



Sortal's Majella Edwards speaks at the launch of *Artificial Intelligence: A Starter Guide to the Future of Business*.

## **Introducing integrated e-government in Australia**

In December 2018, ACS partnered with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute to launch this report, looking at the value of integrating digital services across all levels of government. The report was launched at the ACS Innovation Hub in Barangaroo by Terri Butler MP, Shadow Minister for Education and The Future of Work, from the Australian Labor Party; Fergus Hanson, Director, International Cyber Policy Centre for the Australian Strategic Policy Institute; and ACS CEO Andrew Johnson.



The launch of the IoT report, with PwC Partner Dominik Baumeister; ACS President Yohan Ramasundara and Federal Member for North Sydney, Trent Zimmerman MP.

## **Blockchain Innovation: A Patent Analytics Report**

Prepared by IP Australia, this report looks at the current state of blockchain patents as a lens for evaluating the uptake and concentration of technology development. It was launched in December 2018 by the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, Minister for the Communication and the Arts, at the ACS Innovation Hub in Barangaroo.



Minister Paul Fletcher speaks at the launch of *Blockchain Innovation*.

## **Blockchain 2030: A Look at the Future of Blockchain in Australia**

Prepared for ACS by CSIRO's Data61, *Blockchain 2030* was launched by the Hon Ed Husic MP, then Shadow Minister for the Digital Economy, in April 2019, at the ACS Innovation Hub in Barangaroo. The report looks at the state of blockchain ten years out, and the opportunities and risks it poses for Australia.



The Hon Ed Husic MP with Dr Alexandra Bratanova of Data61 and ACS CEO Andrew Johnson launching *Blockchain 2030: A Look at the Future of Blockchain in Australia*.

## **Rockstar Aussie Founders Living in the US**

This report profiles Aussie startup founders who found success in the United States.

It was launched at a joint ACS and Aussie Founders Network event in San Francisco in January 2019, an event supported by Austrade and moderated by ACS President Yohan Ramasundara and a four-person panel on 'Bringing deep tech to life'. The panel included Silicon Valley-based Olivia Humphrey, CEO and Founder of Kanopy; Michael Dunworth, CEO and Founder of Wyre; Peter James, Chairman of Macquarie Telecom, Nearmap, DroneShield and Aquabotics; and Mandy Ross, Chief Information Officer at Tabcorp.



The launch of *Rockstar Aussie Founders* in San Francisco.

### **Information Age: Cyber Security Experts Series**

ACS' flagship news publication *Information Age* has showcased a number of professionals achieving ACS certifications in cyber security. This publication is a compilation of those articles and provides a fascinating insight into the multidisciplinary nature of cyber security across a range of verticals, including aviation, banking and finance, audit and risk, consulting, and healthcare.

### **Privacy in Data Sharing: A Guide for Business and Government**

This paper describes a framework for privacy-preserving data sharing, addressing technical challenges as well as some data sharing issues more broadly.

The paper builds on the 2017 ACS paper *Data Sharing Frameworks*, expanding the concept of a Personal Information Factor and introducing a Data Safety Factor with recommendations for threshold settings.

### **Hacking democracies: Cataloguing cyber-enabled attacks on elections**

In this policy brief, produced in conjunction with ASPI, we explore areas where election interference has been detected across the world and consider key learnings from those examples in order to develop policy responses for countering each type of interference.

### **Blockchain Challenges for Australia**

Blockchain poses significant challenges that prevent Australia from fully exploiting its promised benefits for our economy and society. This report identifies some of the predominant challenges for applying blockchain technology in different contexts in Australia and proposes technical directions to overcome these.

### **Gamechangers: ACS' Election Manifesto 2019**

On May 8, 2019, ACS CEO Andrew Johnson and President Yohan Ramasundara held an ACS Member webinar to discuss the 17 gamechangers outlined in ACS' *Election Manifesto 2019*.

This webinar explained the gamechangers identified in the manifesto and called upon an incoming government to adopt these recommendations for the benefit of Australia's ICT sector and wider economy, in order for Australia to be a world leader in technology talent, investment and jobs of the future.



ACS President Yohan Ramasundara and CEO Andrew Johnson conducting the ACS 2019 Federal Election Manifesto member webinar.

# Media Partnerships

**Making sure the ICT industry gets heard.**

## RiverPitch

Following the successful live RiverPitch investor series events conducted by River City Labs in Brisbane, there was an opportunity to take the story of startups and investment to a national television audience and shine a spotlight on founders, their tech-driven businesses, the capital and investment raising process and the highs and lows that are associated with being a tech entrepreneur.

In the first season of RiverPitch, going to a national television audience, 24 entrepreneurs from around the country competed to win a prize of \$20,000, and to be crowned the inaugural RiverPitch Champion.

All our fantastic contestants were Australian-owned businesses looking to scale up and take their company to global markets. Australia has a great history of creating world-changing innovative technology, and ACS and River City Labs

wanted to highlight and champion these stories for a broader audience.

The 24 contestants were picked from across Australia and included: Dr James Fielding, CEO of Audeara; Tim Walmsley, CEO at BenchOn; Alex Moss, CEO of Canaria Technologies; Lachlan Spedding, CEO of Orbmaps; Nick Kamols and Bradley Clair, Co-Founders of PowerWells; Yasmin Grigaliunas, CEO of World's Biggest Garage Sale; Dan Swan, CEO of Realar; Lucio Piccoli, CEO of Site See; Anthony Collins, CEO of Cruiser Interactive; Carolyn Mee, CEO of Sound Scouts; Wence Peraza, Co-Founder of Fin15; Greg Walsom, Director of Hum; Brennan Hatton, Founder of Equal Reality; Jake Dimarco, CEO of Spare Workspace; Richard Savoie, CEO of Staybil; Hanno Blankenstein and Jason Grier, Co-Founders of Unleash Live; Thomas Szmidel, Co-Founder of CarDeals2Me; Yifei Wang, Founder of Happy

Hackers; Lucinda Hartley and Jessica Christiansen-Franks, Co-Founders of Neighbourlytics; Robin Sands, CEO of Link4; John Webster, CEO of Shiftiez; Dr Annie McAuley, Founder of Talkiplay; Jamie Daou and Nick Wright, Co-Founders of SITU360; and Tony Wu, CEO of Weploy.

These contestants were mentored by industry leaders Steve Baxter, Investor and Founder of Transition Level Investments; Sheona Devin, Executive Director of VIANT Group; and Peter James, Chairman of Macquarie Telecom Group, Nearmap and DroneShield.

After eight weeks of intense competition, the winner was announced. Weploy, and its vision to create an empowered future of work, convinced judges ACS President Yohan Ramasundara, ACS CEO Andrew Johnson and HashChing COO Siobhan Hayden that they had what it took to be crowned champions.



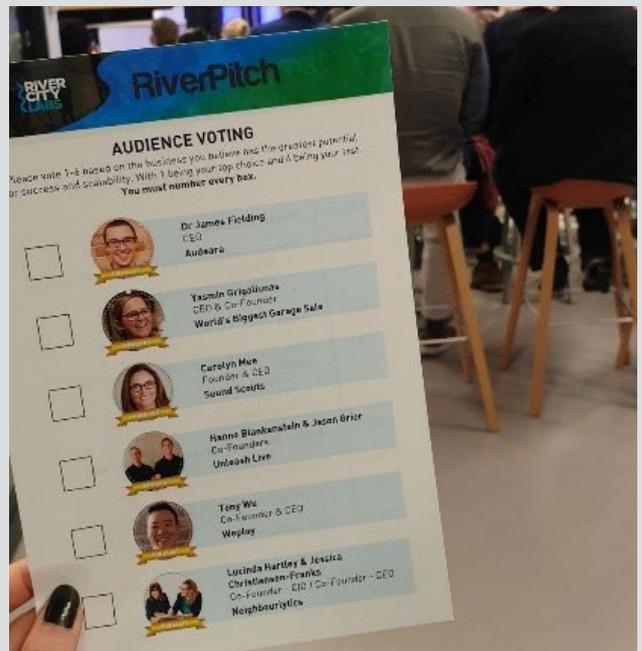
RiverPitch winners: Weploy.



World's Biggest Garage Sale team.



RiverPitch mentors: Steve Baxter, Sheona Devin and Peter James.



Audience voting cards.



Mentor Sheona Devin with the Neighbourlytics Team.



The Unleash Live team.

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## Other Media Partnerships

In the 2018/19 financial year, ACS also harnessed media partnerships with Sky News, *Your Money*, *The Australian* and *The Australian Financial Review* to deliver several public education initiatives, thought leadership and advocacy activities on important topics for our members.

These partnerships were important vehicles for ACS to leverage the knowledge capital of ACS members to influence and seek positive change with government and industry through unique and thought-provoking content.

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### **Tech.Biz**

*Tech.Biz* explored how technology and innovation is shaping domestic and international businesses and industries. ACS CEO Andrew Johnson interviewed leading industry guests on a segment on the show. These industry guests included Tabcorp CIO Mandy Ross; entrepreneur and investor Steve Baxter; AGL's Executive General Manager for Future Business and Technology, Simon Moorfield; Woolworths CIO John Hunt; GHD Digital Global Digital Leader Kumar Parakala; Victorian Minister for Small Business and Innovation, the Hon Philip Dalidakis; and Ajay Bhatia, Managing Director of Consumer Business at Carsales.com.

### **The CXO Report**

The CXO Report was a segment on *Tech.Biz* in which ACS uncovered the success strategies of our nation's leading tech entrepreneurs. Over seven episodes, ACS CEO Andrew Johnson interviewed Australia's most prominent tech leaders on how to spark innovation within Australia and use technology to propel our future economy.

The leaders interviewed by Andrew were: Aaron Birkby, CEO of Startup Catalyst; Peta Ellis, CEO of River City Labs; Michael Priddis, CEO of Faethm AI; Adrian Di Marco, Founder of TechnologyOne; Steve Baxter, entrepreneur and investor; Aidan Tudehope, Managing Director, Government & Hosting Group of Macquarie Telecom Group; and the Hon Victor Dominello, NSW Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation.

### **Mundine Means Business**

Featuring Warren Mundine AO, the show was an avenue for ACS to demonstrate the impact indigenous Australians and businesses are having in their community and the broader Australian economy through the innovative use of technology.

The program became a platform to announce the inaugural ACS Indigenous IT Scholarship in partnership with Charles Darwin University.

### **The Innovation Forum**

This series explored issues, challenges and triumphs – relating to education, policy,

creativity and planning – that contribute to the growth of Australia's innovation industries.

It showcased ACS members and stakeholders, and many pertinent topics were discussed: Innovate or Die with ACS President Yohan Ramasundara; The Future of Work with ACS CEO Andrew Johnson; Culture and Capital with Kumar Parakala, Global Digital Leader at GHD Digital; Future Cities with ACS Vice President and NSW Chief Data Scientist Oppermann; Deep Tech with Rob Newman, CEO of Nearmap; and Innovation on the Move with Ajay Bhatia, Managing Director of Consumer Business at Carsales.com.

### **Paul Murray Live – Our Town**

This was an opportunity for ACS to showcase regional innovation and talent from Australia. Luke Anear, CEO and Founder of SafetyCulture, told Sky News host Paul Murray his story of starting a successful, innovative business from a Townsville garage.

**Sky 2600 and Create, Disrupt, Change**

Create, Disrupt, Change was a fortnightly shareable and snackable video series. It was accompanied by an article in Sky 2600 that championed ACS' core values, key messages and thought leadership.

The series discussed a variety of topics including privacy in data sharing, the future of blockchain in Australia, the use of augmented and virtual reality, the contribution of Australian startups, and the need for skills and service transformation in a time of disruption.



Warren Mundine on *Mundine Means Business*.



Paul Murray Live – Our Town with Luke Anear, CEO and Founder of SafetyCulture.



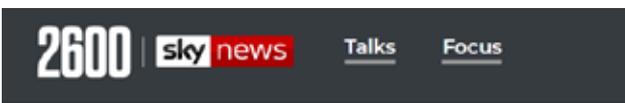
ACS CEO Andrew Johnson interviewing Steve Baxter for The CXO Report.



The Innovation Forum on Sky News, with Kumar Parakala, Global Digital Leader at GHD Digital.



ACS Vice President and NSW Chief Data Scientist Ian Oppermann discussing data sharing on 2600 and during the Create, Disrupt, Change program.



**Igniting collaboration leads the way for the future of IVF technology**

May 22, 2019



ACS in the Sky 2600 newsletter.



ACS' Tech.Biz series, broadcast on Sky News.

# Education Across the Nation (EdXN)

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

This year, ACS attracted more than 2,000 attendees to its thought leadership series. The series saw leading Australian and international experts present a range of opportunities that have emerged as a result of disruption in the ICT sector.



## Andrew McAfee

The first EdXN event was the keynote address by international guest speaker Professor Andrew McAfee, Co-Founder of the MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy at the MIT Sloan School of Management. McAfee spoke about the evolution of business models in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, addressing a captive audience of more than 1,000 attendees. McAfee's address was also livestreamed via satellite, finding a new avenue of engagement with those who couldn't attend the event in person, but were still keen to know his insights.



## Paul Krugman

World-renowned, Nobel Prize-winning economist Professor Paul Krugman joined ACS CEO Andrew Johnson at the ACS Innovation Hub in Barangaroo for a Q&A session. Professor Krugman shared invaluable insights about international trade patterns, social and economic policy, and what he considers to be some of the biggest challenges of our times. The event was livestreamed across all other states. Each state branch held a physical micro-event that broadcasted the live stream and gave them the opportunity to join the Q&A session via social media platforms.



## Aaron Birkby

Startup Catalyst CEO Aaron Birkby was joined by various guest speakers on a national roadshow. Aaron's conversations with guest speakers shed light on some of the innovative technologies they have come across and how to make the most of a disruptive market. In the roadshow Aaron spoke with government and industry leaders as well as startup professionals to present a holistic picture of what disruption looks like across business sectors.

# BiG Day In and BiG Day In Junior

In 2018/19 ACS continued its support for the ACS Foundation's BiG Day In and BiG Day In Junior events.

The BiG Day In events are aimed at senior secondary school and university students interested in careers in ICT and technology. They are held on university campuses all around Australia to give students an insight into what the transition to technology careers would look like. The BiG Day In events have helped more than 5,000 students explore

careers in technology and where ICT can take them.

BiG Day In events occurred across Australia, including Wagga Wagga (Charles Sturt University), Sydney (UTS), Newcastle (University of Newcastle), Perth (Murdoch University), Hobart (University of Tasmania), Canberra (ANU), Brisbane (The University of Queensland) and Melbourne (RMIT).

For students in Years 5 and 6, BiG Day In Junior events are workshop-based days.

They are held at a primary school and bring clusters of local schools together to events where students participate in hands-on workshops. These workshops are designed to encourage students to study STEM subjects in high school.

BiG Day In Junior events were held across Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Hobart in late 2018 and early 2019.



# Other Continuing Professional Development Activities & Events

## Developing unique continuing professional development activities for our members.

ACS research and member feedback continues to inform activities at both branch and national levels.

### Skills and Employability Young Professionals Half-Day Conferences

The Skills and Employability Half-Day Conferences for young professionals were created based on consistent feedback from student members completing their studies that they were looking for assistance to enter the workforce, as well as our Professional Partner Program members who continue to look for talent for their workforces.

Initially piloted in FY2017/18 in Victoria and then New South Wales, events were held in Queensland, Tasmania and Canberra in FY2018/19. This initiative prepares participants for employment and provides career development through the facilitation of soft skills and job preparation activities. It actively involves Professional Partner Program employers who highlight ways students can stand out and succeed as a skilled professional, what their organisations look for and what to expect through recruitment, onboarding and working for an organisation – whether they're a founder of their

own startup or a team member in a large organisation.

In FY2018/19, this initiative was converted into a national series offered across all Branches. In FY2019/20, two other new national flagship series will also be created - an Emerging and Deep Tech Virtual Series and Leaders' Insights Roundtables.



### Atlassian Ask Me Anything Spark Festival event

In October 2018, ACS collaborated with the Spark Festival, one of Australia's largest events and the largest event series in NSW for startups, innovators and entrepreneurs.

ACS presented an Ask Me Anything event for an audience of 300 with Atlassian's Co-Founder Scott Farquhar and Head of Foundation Mark Reading at Pledge 1%.



Scott Farquhar and Mark Reading at the Ask Me Anything Spark Festival Opening Event for 2018.



ACS CEO Andrew Johnson introducing the Ask Me Anything event.

**Ensuring ACS continues to drive professional standards and ethics for our profession**

In December 2018, ACS hosted a webinar panel discussion called *Deep diving into the area of professional ethics and its ground rules in an era of technological change*.

The panel discussion was hosted by senior industry leaders Oliver Burmeister, ACS Ethics Committee Chair and panel facilitator; Philip Argy, ACS Disciplinary Committee Chair and ACS Ethics Committee member; Kirsten Wahlstrom, ACS Ethics Committee member;

Alex Reid, ACS Ethics Committee member; Stephanie Andral, Guest panelist; and Marcus Wigan, ACS Ethics Committee member.

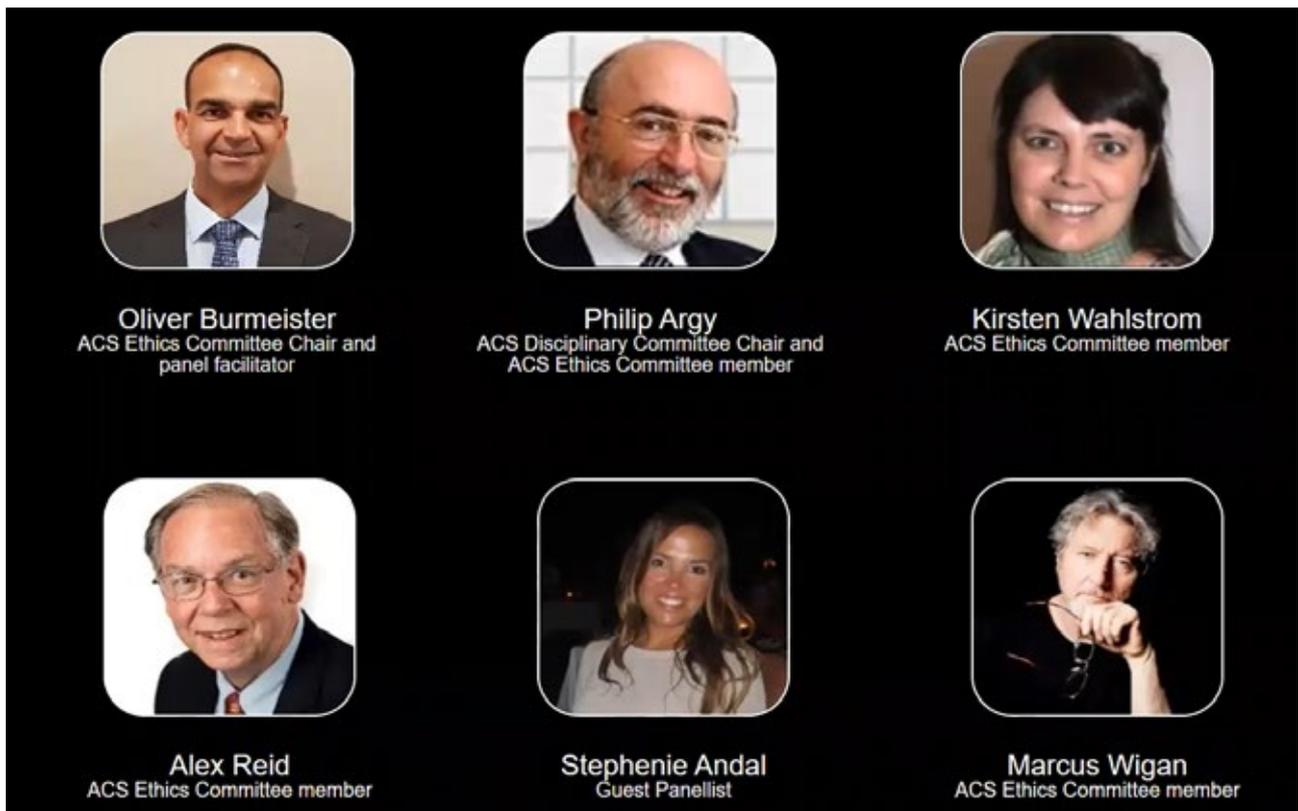
Professional standards and ethics continues to be a relevant subject for our members and profession with the rapid pace and acceleration of technologies.

**Connecting and providing forums for members to connect and share their knowledge and insights**

In May 2019, ACS launched our online Communities of Practice forums for our members. These

were designed to help members communicate, collaborate and share their knowledge and insights with ACS and their peers.

The initiative aimed to increase collaboration and engagement between ACS members, so they could leverage each other’s knowledge in a closed, safe environment for skills and knowledge development, and to provide a mechanism for members to share their views on what public policy and advocacy areas they believe ACS should advocate for on their behalf.



The *Deep diving into the area of professional ethics and its ground rules in an era of technological change* panel.



The Communities of Practice interface.



# Team Reports

ACS has a variety of teams that work to provide our members and partners with a wide range of services. Let's take a look at what they've been up to.

# Workforce Development & Certification

**Continuing to maintain and embedding professional standards and ethics for our industry.**

FY2018/19 demonstrated the need to support the active application of the Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA) across a range of IT and digital workforces, including ASX 100 companies and government departments.

During the course of 2018 SFIA version 7 was released, and ACS was deeply involved in its creation, allowing us to roll it out soon after release. Our contribution to the review and release of SFIA version 7 extended to direct input and representation on the SFIA Design Authority.

SFIA 7 was released on our mySFIA service in July 2018 to enable all ACS members to review their skills and capabilities against the current framework, which includes a focus on digital transformation, service management, cyber security, software engineering, and agile/DevOps.

ACS' mySFIA and workforce development services enable organisations and government departments to establish skills profiles and benchmark job roles. This lets them capture skills more efficiently and enable mobilisation into the broader workforce, as well as establish technology-appropriate development roadmaps, ensuring the future capabilities of employees.

More than 5,000 ACS members accessed mySFIA for self-assessment of SFIA skills and capabilities this year. Members from federal government departments, universities, ASX 100 companies and small to medium enterprises have engaged with this powerful tool, using it to develop a structured approach to profiling and developing skills. Access has extended to members based internationally, in countries such as the US, Indonesia, New Zealand and the South Pacific.

Our dedicated SFIA Implementation Projects with our professional partners has seen the creation of over 400 SFIA job role profiles and the validation of over 2,000 SFIA skills assessment services across industry subsectors from health, energy, finance and retail. Of ACS members who undertook SFIA Skills Validation, 85% achieved ACS Certification status.

The ability of our members to actively drive their development and learning goals was further supported by the deployment of development plans for all participants in Workforce Development Partner Projects. These provide clear recommendations on learning and development pathways to address skills gaps and raise capabilities to assist in career development.

## Certifying the ICT workforce

With more than 100,000 new technology workers needed in Australia by 2024, the need to certify those working in the sector is more pressing than ever.

ACS validates the skills and capabilities of ICT workers through our vendor-neutral certifications for both individuals and companies. Our certifications are recognised as a trusted indicator of qualified IT professionals.

Of all technology workers, 49% are found in ICT-related industries, such as computer systems design, telecommunications services and internet service provision.

The remaining 51% are found in other industries, including healthcare and utilities. Consequently, ACS Certified Professionals are found in all sectors across Australia, including federal and state government, major telcos, utilities, corporations and universities.

In the past year, for example, ACS has worked closely with ACT Health on a workforce development project where 80% of participants went on to be awarded an ACS Certification. Utilities such as Essential Energy and South East Water also delivered on certification for staff as part of their workforce development.

At the corporate level, staff from EYC3, NEC, Callida Consulting, Dimension Data, GHD and BDO have attained ACS Certification in the past year.

During October 2018, ACS' flagship publication, *Information Age*, also showcased a number of professionals achieving ACS certifications in cyber security. Each profile in our ACS Cyber Security Experts series provides a fascinating insight into the multidisciplinary nature of cyber security across a range of vertical industries including aviation; banking and finance; audit and risk; consulting; and healthcare.



ACT Health gets certified.



South East Water's certification ceremony.

## The new Professional Standards Scheme strengthening the technology professions

In December 2018, ACS obtained approval from the Professional Standards Councils for a new Professional Standards Scheme, designed to include all Certified Professional (CP) members. This gives all CP members professional recognition from Australian federal, state and territory governments.

The new scheme was launched in April 2019, and CP members are being monitored for compliance with professional standards, including professional indemnity insurance.

This is an exciting step forward for the ICT profession, elevating the stature of CP members and providing a range of benefits, including greater recognition in the wider workforce.



Professional Standards Council Chair John Vines (right) presenting certificate to ACS President Yohan Ramasundara (left).

# Education

## Enabling the next generation of technology professionals and educators.

ACS Education is focused on continually building the capacity and capability of Australia's ICT workforce through a range of programs for domestic and international students. Our programs are designed to support the emerging workforce as they transition from education to employment.

### ICT Educators Program and Community of Practice

ACS is committed to supporting all teachers in order to drive high-quality computing education across Australia. In particular, ACS has identified two key needs of teachers in Australia as they implement the new Digital Technologies curriculum:

- Better understanding of the concepts and language found within the Digital Technologies curriculum.
- Examples and ideas, incorporating current pedagogies, to implement the Digital Technologies curriculum.

ACS helped create teacher and student resources to assist teachers in making sense of curriculum expectations at each year level (Foundation to Year 10). In total, 44 fact sheets and posters explain topics such as data, networks, binary code, algorithms, online collaboration, user interface and user experience.

Lessons and units of work provide examples for teachers to integrate the Digital Technologies curriculum. These lessons promote skills such as authentic learning, global connections, critical and creative thinking, collaboration and student-driven learning. A total of 23 units of work (from Foundation to Year 10) have been generated and trialled in primary and secondary schools.

To help develop these, ACS collaborated with 12 different schools (from independent, state and Catholic sectors), ensuring the curated content provides targeted support and value to Australian educators.

ACS continues to develop relationships with education stakeholders including Independent Schools Victoria, Queensland Department of Education, Brisbane Catholic Education Office and the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority.

In addition, The ICT Educators Community of Practice launched

in 2019, and has attracted over 350 Australian educators. Users within the community have access to ACS ICT educator and student resources, with the ability to participate in forum discussions relating to the Digital Technologies curriculum.



ACS has been actively helping educators plan for the Digital Technologies curriculum.



Students build working robotics at BiG Day In Junior.

## Educators' Global Leaders' Series with Professor Mitchel Resnick

In November 2018, ACS was pleased to host international learning expert Professor Mitchel Resnick, the leader of the MIT Media Lab and if the creator of Scratch, a coding platform that has attracted over 65 million users worldwide. He's the author of *Lifelong Kindergarten: Cultivating Creativity Through Projects, Passion, Peers and Play*.

This Global Leaders' Series focused on how educators can prepare successful environments for today's learners and concepts necessary for learning in today's society, including using digital technology as a catalyst to empower students. The Global Leaders' Series roadshow and industry leader roundtables saw over 400 participants attend Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne events, and was livestreamed to an audience of more than 250 participants.



Mitchel Resnick at the Educators' Global Leaders' Series.



Mitchel Resnick speaks to a roundtable in Queensland.

## Professional Year

ACS' Professional Year (PYear) Program prepares recent international student graduates for the Australian workforce, through workplace experience and mentoring support. In FY2017/18, the Professional Year Program experienced another period of growth, and continues to contribute to the diversification of Australia's ICT workforce.

In August 2018, the ACS Education team hosted an event for the PYear Providers to release the updated PYear Framework and operations manual. The event covered topics including:

- Updates to enrolments, student appeals and DHA reporting.
- Continuous improvement process to enable ongoing feedback and uplift of service standards.
- Introduction to new checkpoint reporting.

In the first half of 2019, ACS also welcomed two new Professional Year Providers: Danford College in Melbourne and Academy IT in Adelaide.



Professional Year students graduate.

## Learning management system uplift

ACS Education initiated a project to pilot a new learning management system (LMS) for the Professional Environments online course and Professional Year online orientation. The LMS was selected to provide the functionality, reputation and ability to enhance the student learning experience. Course content migration is presently under way.

## Professional Placement Program

The Professional Placement Program, for students undertaking a Master of Information Technology or Master of Information Systems, is a work-integrated learning program jointly offered by the University of Melbourne and ACS. The masters-level internship program enabled 50 interns to be placed with over 30 host employers in FY2018/19.

During the year, ACS was able to engage a number of additional Professional Partners as host organisations, including Motorola Solutions and Telstra Enterprise Operations, resulting in ongoing job opportunities for a number of interns.

# River City Labs

## Helping Aussie Founders and businesses to scale up.

River City Labs' mission is to foster the growth of high-tech companies solving big global problems. We help tech startups gain traction in international export markets and develop their product offerings to address big global challenges. This means providing access to an unwavering, persistent and supportive River City Labs community, and providing connections to talent, capital and customers.



## We measure our success by:

- The number of startups undergoing scale-up programs.
- The number of conversions from pre-revenue founders to registered tech startups.
- The number of growing, successful global companies that are part of River City Labs Alumni.
- The number of tech startup residents.
- The value of capital raised by alumni of River City Labs.
- The value of direct capital facilitated by River City Labs.
- The value of turnover growth of alumni of River City Labs and residents of the Precinct.

Based on those metrics, the past 12 months have been the

biggest yet for River City Labs. We went from a five-person team with 150 members, based out of our Brisbane location, to being acquired by ACS, enabling us to join the ACS Labs group of companies and start the rollout of our two new locations in Sydney and Melbourne.

In early 2019, ACS launched River City Labs' sister site Harbour City Labs (HCL) based in Sydney's Barangaroo. HCL is home to 12 tech scale-up companies operating in the B2B enterprise space, and the average team size is five employees. Teams in HCL are part of our signature Wave Growth Program, aimed at assisting the resident companies to commercialise their service offering and move towards product-based businesses

with a focus on global export opportunities and ongoing job creation for the tech sector.

Harbour City Labs has hosted four monthly CEO lunches since opening, with more than ten guest speakers brought into address various topic issues faced by high-growth tech companies.

At the same time, Brisbane's River City Labs continues to grow and support the ecosystem by hosting and facilitating more than ten industry meetup groups, ranging from the deep technical meetups to general business focused mentoring groups and our popular Brisbane Startup Coffee Meetups, which are held fortnightly and draw 40 to 50 people into various cafés around Fortitude Valley.

## Major Events

At River City Labs we run dozens of events every year. Some recent highlights are shown below.

### Global Startup Weekend Women 2018

One of the biggest events on our annual calendar is the Global Startup Weekend Women.

The event was part of a global initiative, where simultaneous Startup Weekend Women events all around the world occur in 18 countries. River City Labs attracted over 125 participants; 45 ideas were pitched; and 12 teams formed and businesses launched in 54 hours.

### Innovation workshops

River City Labs worked with multiple corporate partners, such as EY, BOQ and Datacom, throughout the year to enable them to innovate and sit close with tech startups. As part of those relationships, we facilitated full-day innovation workshops where we engaged internal teams in an ideation and MVP building exercise, as well as startup empathy training.

### Rails Girls InstallFest

We continued to support the annual Rails Girls InstallFest, an initiative to teach more women to code on Ruby on Rails. Rails Girls is an annual event, and last year we cohosted up to 60 women, providing a safe, comfortable environment to learn to code.

## EmpowHER Conference

Designed for students from Years 9 to 11, the EmpowHER Conference was a high-energy, exciting day to engage and empower future changemakers. Packed with exclusive guest speakers, a Q&A panel and engaging workshops to select from, young women could expect to leave the conference motivated and inspired.

At the event, River City Labs provided mentors for young female participants to do hourly round-robin group meetings to discuss future career opportunities in the tech sector.



EmpowHER hosted 120 young women interested in entrepreneurship as a career pathway.

## Myriad 2018

The Queensland Government-funded Myriad conference was an opportunity for us to showcase our graduate companies to an international audience. We hosted the River City Labs Accelerator's Demo Day and RiverPitch 'Startup Invest' event as part of the conference program, drawing a crowd of 200 national and international investors.

On the back of the Demo Day, we opened the opportunity to recruit for our accelerator in a bootcamp process. A two-day bootcamp with 20 mentors enabled us to uncover the next cohort of 15 teams to go through the accelerator.



## Bigsound

Bigsound is Queensland's largest music conference, and in 2018 River City Labs hosted the 'Music Tech Showcase' pitch competition, where we spent the day mentoring music-tech startups, culminating in a pitch competition to win prizes at the end of Bigsound.



Bigsound training.

## Queensland Young Starters

The Queensland Young Starters' Competition was a government-funded initiative delivered by River City Labs. We attracted registrations from more than 80 regional youth interested in entrepreneurship. They submitted their business ideas via a specific selection process that occurred over 12 weeks, with the goal of being accepted into a fully funded bootcamp weekend.

The bootcamp weekend was delivered by River City Labs facilitators and took all 30 participants through rigorous mentoring with 15 industry mentors. There was a final pitch during a breakfast reception where the winner was awarded a place on the Startup Catalyst trip to the US.



Queensland Young Starters.

## Pitch@Palace

We welcomed royalty into River City Labs for the 2018 Pitch@Palace Queensland Finals. It was a full day of mentoring and pitching hosted at River City Labs, with the Duke of York, Prince Andrew in attendance. Four River City Labs residents and four alumni pitched in the finals.



# Startup Catalyst

## Helping ACS members and partners go global.

*Australian Shark Tank* investor Steve Baxter founded Startup Catalyst in 2014 to “expose Australians with an interest in entrepreneurship to the Silicon Valley start-up culture, to have them bitten by the startup bug, give them a sense of what can be achieved if they put their mind to it, and ensure they return fired up about building global startups”.

Since then Startup Catalyst has expanded to deliver missions to startup and innovation hotspots around the globe, for tech-savvy youths, investors, corporate innovators, policy makers and academics.

In FY2018/19, Startup Catalyst delivered six missions to four international hotspots, with a total of 82 passengers. We also participated in 27 domestic events across Australia, including the national EdXN tour, sharing the insights from our missions with close to 1,500 attendees.

In October 2018, we conducted our second mission to Israel, taking 11 startup community leaders to Tel Aviv for intense immersion into their startup ecosystem. The mission was funded by the Department of Industry, and led by Dr Baden U'ren, head of entrepreneurship at Bond University.

Our second investor mission for the year landed in San Francisco in February 2019, with 14 angel

investors and high-net-worth individuals, led by Steve Baxter. The cohort met with ‘super angels’ like Jason Calacanis, and spent time with venture capital funds, corporate venture arms and local investors, as well as being educated on US legal structures and processes.

Our next mission was the startup community Leader’s Mission, which took place in Boulder, Denver and San Francisco in March, with 15 startup community leaders from around Australia. The mission was led by Dr Baden U'ren and Breanna Barnes. Despite a sudden snowstorm that kept the cohort in Colorado longer than expected, the mission saw participants meet with US accelerator programs, co-working spaces, entrepreneurship programs, makers spaces, startups and investor groups.

Our first-ever hardware-focused ‘maker mission’ landed in Silicon Valley in May with nine participants, led by new Catalyst mission leaders Mic Black and Arieann DeFazio.

The highlight of the trip was the Maker Faire in San Mateo, bringing together electronics, robotics and rapid prototyping gurus from around the world.

June saw our largest-ever mission, with 40 participants heading to the UK for London Tech Week. London Tech Week is made up of startups, scale-ups, investors, corporate innovations, policy makers and academic faculty. The mission was led by Aaron Birkby, and broken into streams, with Ellen Mackenzie leading the startups and scale-ups stream, and world-record adventurer Eleanor Carey and Queensland Chief Entrepreneur Leanne Kemp both leading the Female Founders stream. The trip included visits to Facebook and Google, numerous innovation hubs and corporate innovation programs, as well as private meetings with investors.



Aaron Birkby and Judy Halliday (London Mission Participant) at EdXN Adelaide.



Aaron Birkby and Eleanor Carey (Female Founders Mission Leader) at EdXN Darwin.



Our investor mission participants meeting with the mergers and acquisitions team at PayPal.



Dr Baden U'ren leads the Israel Mission.



The Maker Mission: Stephanie Piper, Ellie Daubney, Damien Tracey, William Pagnon, Mic Black, Rodney Christian, Helen, Stanley, Thomas Stolberg, Arieann DeFazio, Dominic Vrolijk.



Anthony Jephcott, Brody Oxenham, Bruce McConnel, Coby Sullivan, Elizabeth Alexander, Gary Swanepoel, Jessica Fealy, Marcus McCormick, Renae Jones, Steve Dalton, Tanya O'Shea, Victor Vicario, Sam Joyce, Eileen-Deemal Hall, Desmond Tayley and Breanna Barnes at the Leader's Mission.



The London mission: Craig O'Kane MBE, Yasmin Grigaliunas, Leanne Kemp, Susanna George, Angela Young, Cheryl Mack, Indi Tansey, Alicia Buchanan, Sharine Duran, Roulla Yiacoumi, Linda Apelt, Morgahna Godwin, Patricia Mackie-Smith, Eleanor Carey, Katrina Donaghy, Siobahn Whitehead.



Our London Mission cohort by the Thames at Tower Bridge.

# Accreditation

**Ensuring our universities are the best in the world.**

ACS provides third-party accreditation of higher education courses on request, to provide assurance to local and international students and stakeholders that the course meets recognised threshold standards for graduate outcomes. ACS accredited courses have international recognition through the Seoul Accord.

ACS accreditation signifies that a course of study meets essential criteria in the training and education of its students in ICT or related disciplines, and that graduates achieve the professional competencies and learning outcomes necessary for entry into professional practice in Australia.

In FY2018/19 we redesigned our accreditation process for higher education courses to reduce compliance costs while maintaining standards, improving integrity and providing a more valuable service. Our criteria are now clearer, our process documents

simpler, and submission options much more flexible. The new process was piloted and stakeholders consulted.

In 2018/19 we also developed and launched a Specialist Accreditation program to recognise courses that prepare graduates for specialist roles in cyber security.

## **During FY2018/19:**

- The Accreditation Committee met seven times.
- 12 major accreditation visits and 12 ancillary campus visits were conducted.
- Five-year accreditations were granted for 63 courses at:
  - Australian National University
  - Central Queensland University
  - La Trobe University
  - Macquarie University
  - Melbourne Polytechnic
  - RMIT University
  - Sohar University (Oman)
  - Southern Cross University
  - Swinburne University of Technology
  - University of Newcastle
  - University of Wollongong

# Skills Assessment

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

ACS is the approved Assessing Authority for ICT-related occupations under general skilled migration. Our team assess 24 different occupation codes on the list of eligible skilled occupations as determined by the Department of Home Affairs.

This is an important role performed in the national interest, intended to supplement

the Australian workforce with skills in areas of domestic shortage to ensure continued economic growth and enable the country to best position itself for continued prosperity.

Skills shortage occupations are reviewed regularly by the Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business to ensure

responsiveness to changes in the Australian labour market.

Similarly, professional practice expectations in occupations evolve over time, meaning the team focusses on quality and rigour of assessments to ensure applicants meet genuine skill shortages without displacing Australian workers.



The ACS Skilled Migration team at work.

# Digital Services

## The digital toolkit for our members.

This year's ACS Technology Plan was established with a focus on delivering new and improved digital services for members and constituents while continuing to strengthen ACS' cyber security posture.

The Technology Plan, endorsed by Management Committee's Digital Enablement Steering Committee, successfully innovated digital services for the benefit of members across three key themes: professional development, member channels and ACS' cyber security posture.

The acquisition of River City Labs and Startup Catalyst this year provided a unique opportunity for

ACS to test the adaptiveness and resilience of not only the digital services portfolio but also the Technology Plan. ACS was able to support the digital needs of existing ACS members and constituents as well as deliver new digital services, and integrate the digital and physical operations of both River City Labs and Startup Catalyst. This resulted in a growth in engagement across ACS digital and physical channels, and an increased number of meaningful member and constituent interactions.

The successful acquisition and integration of River City Labs and Startup Catalyst is a significant indicator of both ACS' digital

maturity and the robustness of digital services being provided to an expanding cohort of members and constituents. It also demonstrates ACS' ability to embrace disruption to accelerate and amplify value across member channels.

## Communities of Practice

In May 2019, ACS launched online Communities of Practice forums for our members. These were designed to help members communicate, collaborate and share their knowledge and insights with ACS and their peers.

You can find them online in the member section of the ACS website, [acs.org.au](https://acs.org.au).



## Member channels

There was significant innovation across ACS member channels during the past year. Due to the omnichannel nature of ACS' digital services, benefits were realised via digital and physical outcomes.

### Digital

This year ACS formally launched five online Communities of Practice: Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Big Data, Public Awareness & Advocacy, and ICT Educators. These online communities provide ACS members with a platform and a voice to interact on important agendas and topics for the profession.

The initiative aimed to increase collaboration and engagement between ACS members so they could leverage each other's knowledge in a closed, safe environment, and to provide a mechanism for members to share their views on what public policy and advocacy areas they believe ACS should advocate for on their behalf.

In addition, ACS has opportunity to enable external constituents, such as National K-12 educators, to access, interact and leverage the combined experience and thought leadership of almost 45,000 ICT professionals to gain better outcomes for Australia.

### Physical

This year, ACS relocated its Northern Territory Branch into the Darwin Innovation Hub and its Queensland Branch into the River City Labs Technology and Innovation Hub. In addition to gaining access to improved

facilities and services for branch executives and members, these branches are now linked with other constituent digital services; for example, the 150 constituents of River City Labs Technology and Innovation Hub are now integrated into ACS digital services portfolio.

### Professional development

Ensuring members have access to tools and content to personally drive their professional development is a core activity for ACS and its digital services portfolio. Key benefits delivered to members this year, to better enable professional development, include:

- The re-platforming of Online Micro-Courses to enable a much-improved customer experience, including accessibility via a mobile app, and tighter integration with ACS' digital services portfolio. Online Micro-Courses are now available for international and student members directly from myACS on the ACS website.
- Curation of ACS' Digital Training Video Library, with over 12,000 new assets lifting the total number of training videos to 44,500.
- The ability for members and PPPs to assess ICT competency against the latest SFIA framework, version 7, released this year using mySFIA.
- In addition to enabling the professional development of members and constituents, ACS also has an obligation to ensure standards are met for individuals aspiring to join the ICT professions in Australia. As such, ACS successfully

introduced a new automated digital service to improve detection and governance of fraud when a Request for Prior Learning (RPL) is made as part of an application for migration skills assessment.

### Cyber security posture

This year ACS introduced multiple automated threat protection mechanisms to allow earlier detection and deterrent of malicious actors. The primary purpose of the new protocols is strengthening the protection of member privacy and ACS data assets. Three key cyber enhancements delivered to strengthen ACS' cyber security posture are:

- Implementation of Splunk Security monitoring, based on the Centre for Internet Security (CIS) controls, of ingress, egress and endpoints across ACS cloud and physical properties.
- Introduction of multifactor threat scanning, on upload and access, of all digital artefacts used in provision of digital services for ACS members and constituents.
- Education and awareness campaigns for ACS staff and volunteers stewarding private or sensitive member and constituent information.

The member benefits realised from digital services this year reinforces the 2015 vision to establish ACS' Digital Edge, but also goes further. By continuing to embrace disruption and combine digital information and physical resources in desirable, feasible, viable and scalable ways, ACS is able to generate new value streams into the future for our members and constituents.

# Information Age

**Providing up-to-the-minute trusted news for our members.**

*Information Age* (ia.acs.org.au) is the flagship news publication of ACS, and it continues to cement its position as a trusted source of news for IT professionals. It's available free to both members and the general public as a weekly newsletter.

This financial year, *Information Age* registered 184,943 users on the site, viewing 428,735 pages. Monthly, that equates to 15,412 users viewing 35,727 pages.

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

- The launch of the federal government's My Health Record.
- The Telecommunication and Other Legislation Amendment (Assistance and Access) Bill 2018 passing into law.
- The Criminal Code Amendment (Sharing of Abhorrent Violent Material) Bill 2019 passing into law, following backlash to the livestreaming of the Christchurch attacks.
- The government's introduction of the Global Talent Scheme visa.
- The government's ban of Huawei from taking any part in building Australia's 5G network, along with a similar ban in the US.
- The EU hitting Google with a \$6.8 billion fine for breaching antitrust rules.
- Some 90 million Facebook accounts being affected as part of a breach.
- The Australian Space Agency officially opened.
- China's outing as the nation state behind large-scale global cyber attacks.
- The federal election.
- The ACCC's ban on the TPG and Vodafone merger.
- Australia gets a new Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP.
- Video game addiction becoming classified as a psychological disorder by the World Health Organisation.
- Facebook launching its own cryptocurrency, Libra.

This was strengthened by three special series: Ethics in IT, looking at various scenarios

IT professionals might face in their jobs; ACS Rockstars, profiling Australian tech entrepreneurs making it big in the US; and RiverPitch, on the ACS television series following Australian businesses battling it out for the top prize.

There was plenty of ACS news this year too, including:

- *ACS Australia's Digital Pulse* report revealed we're going to need an additional 200,000 tech workers in the next five years to become a global ICT workforce leader.
- ACS joins the World Economic Forum.
- ACS acquires River City Labs and Startup Catalyst.
- ACS' Reimagination and Digital Disruptors Awards move to Melbourne.
- ACS invents new technique to anonymise data.

As *Information Age* grows, it will continue to focus on news relevant to IT professionals, keeping them up to date with must-know industry developments.



# INFORMATIONAGE

TOP 10 STORIES OF FY2018/19



1. IT pay packets getting bigger



2. You'll need a drone licence from July



3. Outrage as China hacks the world



4. Latest pathway to permanent residency



5. Skilled migration in Australia: then and now



6. Aussie tech darling Canva hacked



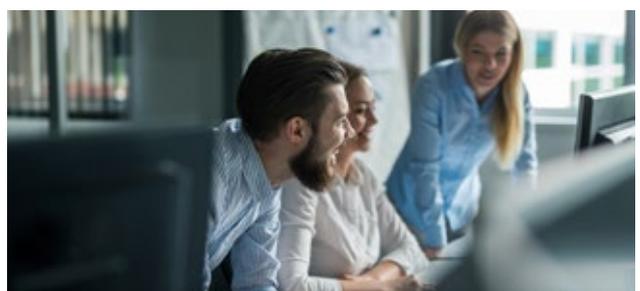
7. IT jobs in 2019: everything you need to know



8. Google calendar feature exploited by hackers



9. ATO gunning for tech workers



10. Why it pays to be a full stack developer

# Policy & Advocacy

## Serving as a voice for the ICT profession.

Part of ACS' core mission is to serve as the voice of technology industries in Australia. Through our Public Policy group and advisory boards, we provide advice and assistance to the government on matters related to technology and the technology professions.

In the past year we've engaged with the government to a greater degree than ever before. ACS now regularly hosts and converses both with leading ministers and with members of the Opposition. We engage at both Federal and State level,

maintaining relationships with Members of Parliament at all levels. This enables us to have a real voice when it comes to critical legislation that relates to the ICT industry.

We have also provided extensive responses and advice to current and planned bills and government activities, with our advisory boards serving as a critical source of expertise.



The launch of *Gamechangers*, a set of policy goals for the next electoral term.

## Policy response

In addition to meetings, informal discussions and education sessions with government Ministers and Shadow Ministers, ACS has provided extensive policy responses, including:

- Several responses to the controversial Assistance and Access Bill
- A response to My Health Record
- A response to the Australian Government Data Sharing Legislation Issues Paper
- Responses to Australia's 2019–2020 Migration Plan and the Australian Public Sector Review.

## Gamechangers

In the lead-up to the March 2019 federal election, ACS produced *Gamechangers*, an 'election manifesto' – a set of key policies we believe are critical for the future of ICT in Australia. Key policy proposals included the establishment of an industry skills fund; the promotion of early-stage tech companies; making AI research a nation priority; improving STEAM education; and improving our cities through smart technology.

## The World Economic Forum

In September, ACS joined the World Economic Forum as a

member. It was the first time that a professional association in the ICT sector was admitted as a member, and demonstrates the importance of the digital economy for Australia's future. The World Economic Forum engages the foremost political, business and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

After joining, ACS CEO Andrew Johnson and President Yohan Ramasundara travelled to the ASEAN Summit in Hanoi, where they joined with Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash as part of the Australian delegation to the forum.



ACS hosts a roundtable meeting with the Hon Christopher Pyne MP and the Hon Paul Fletcher MP.



Management Committee member Ian Oppermann (centre) hosts the Hon Paul Fletcher MP and Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann for a policy discussion.



*Gamechangers*, a set of policy initiatives for the next electoral period.



ACS President Yohan Ramasundara (right) with World Economic Forum President Børge Brende.



ACS President Yohan Ramasundara with NSW Premier the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP at Entrepreneurs Event in Sydney.



ACS President Yohan Ramasundara (centre) with NSW ministers the Hon Matt Kean MP and the Hon Victor Dominello MP at an ACS Entrepreneurs Event.



Shadow Minister Terri Butler and ACS CEO Andrew Johnson enjoying the tech wall at the ACS Innovation Hub.



Shadow Minister Terri Butler enjoys a bit of VR at ACS' Barangaroo offices.



ACS President Yohan Ramasundara with Member for Hotham Clare O'Neil MP.



ACS President Yohan Ramasundara, meeting the Hon Anthony Albanese MP at the budget reply in Canberra.



ACS President Yohan Ramasundara with Senator the Hon Kristina Keneally.

# 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 a year between them – ensuring that every member has the opportunity to enjoy professional development and networking events in their local state or territory.

# Canberra

FY2018/19 saw Canberra deliver several legacy events as well as new initiatives to deliver outcomes appropriate to different audiences.

The first quarter was heavily focused on delivering our 25th Annual Conference. The theme was 'Quantum. Change. Disrupting Canberra'. The conference had 30 sessions with more than 300 registered participants, including government partners such as the Digital Technology Agency and Home Affairs.

Post Canberra Conference, we had the opportunity to host the president of the British Computer Society, Chris Rees, and run a Leader's Breakfast. This was one of three sessions we ran as closed door, invite-only events. The conversation in the room was dynamic and robust. These three leaders' sessions attracted over 160 registrations.

We closed 2018 with a celebratory dinner with local ACS Fellows, and this included the presentation of a

Fellowship to ACS President Yohan Ramasundara.

We started the new year with a design thinking session, delivered in collaboration with DXC. The purpose of the session was to bring together representatives from across our membership and discuss opportunities to increase relevance and engagement at a local level.

Canberra maximised our opportunities during a visit by Startup Catalyst CEO Aaron Birkby. In addition to EdXN, we hosted two sessions for ACT Health and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Across all three sessions, Aaron presented to 69 participants.

For our government PPPs, we introduced a government-specific initiative, in collaboration with AFP. We ran three sessions designed for professionals working in government, with topics including big data, innovation and agile leadership. These sessions attracted over 170 registrations

and provided a great platform to increase engagement within PPPs as well as encourage cross-departmental collaboration.

We also ran two specific initiatives on diversity, including a breakfast focused on unconscious bias and an event in collaboration with DXC showcasing its Dandelion Program and the opportunities for working with talent on the autism spectrum. Our Diversity Breakfast attracted over 136 registrations, the largest registration for this initiative to date.

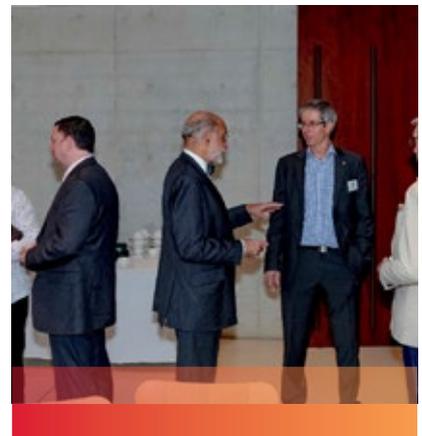
In addition, STEM initiatives played an important role throughout the year. Canberra successfully participated in two BiG Day In events, in Canberra and Wagga Wagga. We also worked with KPMG and WIC to deliver a premium event for Year 10 students, featuring interactive exercises and a panel discussion focused on opportunities in STEM and diverse pathways to a career in tech.



The ACS panel discussion 'I want to be her when I grow up', at St Claire's College in Canberra.



The ACS Diversity Breakfast, with Clare Moore, Francis Owusu, Lily Viertmann, Libby Lyons and ACS President Yohan Ramasundara.



The IT and Ethics event with British Computer Society President Chris Rees.

# New South Wales

This year, NSW branch focused on delivering the highest quality events and opportunities for each member group, including students, PPPs and full-fee members. In addition, more premium events were provided to members. Livestreaming was used across key events, providing quality content to our colleagues and members interstate.

In total, the NSW branch held 94 events over the course of FY2018/19, including technical keynotes, leadership panels and report launches. We also hosted four half-day conferences specifically for the Professional Year students. These were our largest events, with nearly 400 in attendance each time. Overall, we had a total of 3,875 guests attend our events in the last financial year.

One of our most successful events was the International Women's Day Breakfast. The day marked an opportunity to address gender diversity and help drive change through visibility and

awareness of women's issues in the technology sector. The event was opened by Sydney Deputy Mayor Linda Scott, and featured four exceptional women speakers: Monica Wulff, Co-Founder of Startup Muster; Siobhan Hayden, COO at HashChing; Allison Reid, VR Solutions Architect at Equal Reality; and Iris Chan, Chief Marketing Officer of FusionGrove.

Our other events this year focused on several key emerging trends. These included artificial intelligence, blockchain, cyber security, fintech, and startups.

Professional development events for PPPs included Cloud Computing Tactics to Live By; APP Securities; Key Trends in AI & Machine Learning; and AWS Technical Essentials. In addition, many PPPs were able to take advantage of the impressive boardroom in the Barangaroo Innovation Hub for internal professional development activities.

The NSW branch also secured key partners to co-host several events. This included an event with the British Computer Society (BCS), in which the President of BCS spoke about the opportunities and ethical issues confronting IT professionals working in the field of artificial intelligence. We also partnered with Herbert Smith Freehills on a large event featuring its Global Director of Technology, Hilary Goodier, who spoke about how blockchain is changing the world of 'Big Law'.

The members' lounge and events area opened in August 2018, and has been integral to driving membership acquisition and retention; membership in NSW has increased since the opening. With its flexible layout, the NSW branch has been able to increase the number of educational ICT on-site events, which has led to an increase in event attendance by over 400% from the previous financial year.



A VR product demo by Equal Reality.



An amazing panel of women spoke at the International Women's Day Breakfast.

# Northern Territory

Northern Territory experienced significant changes this year, including a new Branch Manager, a new Branch Chair, and several fresh faces joining the Branch Executive Committee. The strategic focus for the NT Branch was member acquisition, member retention and member value, with one of the primary measures of success being an increase in face-to-face event attendances and uptake of digital assets.

We successfully delivered on each of these focus areas. A new Professional Partner relationship was forged, and all existing Professional Partners were retained, as well as seeing a strong increase in retention rates for full-fee members. Face-to-face event attendances increased, with over 550 attendances for

the year; and digital asset uptake increased immeasurably with the monthly publication of the NT Branch eNews, which has had an exceptional response from NT members. We also saw an increase in Certified Professionals in the NT.

In early 2019, a member engagement strategy was undertaken, and the key themes, topics and emerging technology areas identified as being of greatest interest drove our events and activities over the course of the year.

This included a cryptocurrency and blockchain presentation in both Darwin and Alice Springs, featuring a local speaker. It was our highest-attended professional development event this year, with over 60 people attending the Darwin event.

Other notable events included a Careers Development Panel, where ICT leaders shared interesting stories of their career paths and tips. This was of great value to our student, graduate and young professional cohorts. As always, the Annual Golf Day was a huge success, as the ICT community regard it as the most valuable opportunity for professionals to socialise and network in a relaxed environment; it had around 90 attendees.

Other achievements include the NT Branch as delivering a number of sold-out Leaders' Breakfasts, and successfully partnering on an Industry BuildSkills Program to upskill around 50 existing ICT workers in the NT.



Cryptocurrency and Blockchain presentation by Daljit Bahia, in Darwin.



Careers Development Panel in Darwin.



The winners of the 2019 Annual Golf Day at Gardens Park Golf Links.

# Queensland

This was a year of change for the Queensland branch, with ACS' acquisition of River City Labs and a move to our new office location in the Precinct at Fortitude Valley. The transition to the new work environment went smoothly, with both ACS Queensland and River City Labs working hard to build a collaborative working relationship.

Branch members are continuing to increase their engagement through a combination of high-quality, high-impact face-to-face events that address a wide range of topics. These have included emerging technologies and issues such as AI, driverless cars, cyber security, big data, IoT, smart cities and the data breach notification laws. This year, 38 events were produced, with a total of 1,453 attendees.

We continue to secure high-profile professionals as speakers for

our events; they have included: NSW Chief Data Scientist Dr Ian Oppermann; Dr Sue Keay, the Research Director of Cyber-Physical Systems at CSIRO's Data61; Dr Jane Thomason, CEO of Fintech Worldwide; and Nicole Murdoch, Director of the Australian Information Security Association.

This year, the Queensland branch held 15 webinars, which provided professional development opportunities to 500 regional and global members, and the majority of international attendees joining the webinars were in the US.

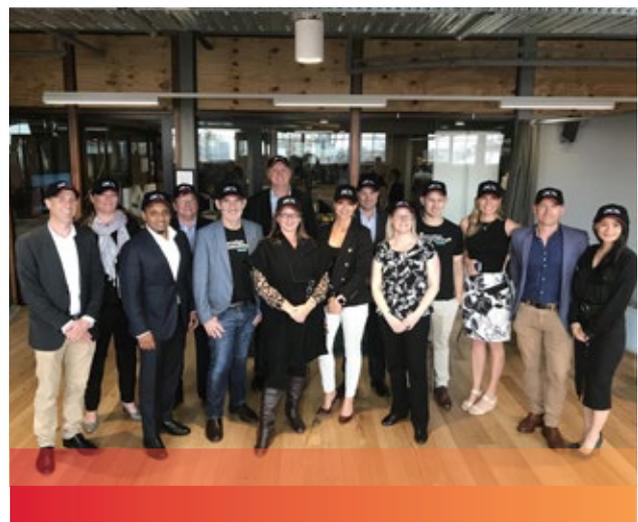
Although we produced three fewer events than last year, the average event attendance increased from the previous year. Our top-performing events were the Young Professionals Conference, with 116 attendees, and a panel debate on data encryption, with 78 senior professionals attending.

Our events program has supported the development of relationships with key stakeholders, including business partners, government, the education sector and the wider ICT industry.

With the new State Manager Holly Bretherton commencing in April, a significant focus for the last part of the financial year was working with the Branch Executive Committee to review and refresh our member recruitment, retention and communications strategies, our regional member engagement strategy, and to devise a plan for business development and growth of corporate partnerships for the new financial year.



A bootcamp for future entrepreneurs at Fortitude Valley.



Senior ACS staff with River City Labs and Startup Catalyst in the new unified office.

# South Australia

The South Australian Branch had a sad start to the year with the passing of our Branch Chair and former National President, Brenda Aynsley OAM FACS CP, in August 2018. Brenda was farewelled at no less than three events around the country, two held here in South Australia. At the first of these events, SA Branch Members were joined by ACS CEO Andrew Johnson, Pearcey Foundation Chairman Wayne Fitzsimmons OAM, and Brenda's wife, Sharon Evans, to celebrate Brenda's life and her many years of commitment and dedication to ACS and the ICT profession.

Brenda left a legacy for ACS at both National and State level. Many will remember her beloved PC Recycling Group, a Special Interest Group that operated for ten years. With Brenda at the helm, the SA Branch and the PC Recycling Group were able to present The Smith Family with a \$50,000 donation to support a pilot program called 'TechPros'. Without this contribution, the TechPros program would not have been possible.

As a result of Brenda's passing there was a slight reshuffle of the ACS SA Branch Executive Committee, with Vice-Chair Chris Radbone taking on the role of Chair of the SA Branch.

On a happier note, the SA Branch has continued to develop our events calendar with the aim of providing high-quality professional development for our membership.

The twice-yearly Early Career Professionals Half-Day Summit proved to be a successful initiative for the SA Branch this financial year. With panellists and keynote speakers talking about a diverse range of topics, including personal branding, using social media, networking and professional development, the half-day summit continues to attract a growing audience and a high calibre of speakers.

We were also pleased to continue to deliver the ACS SA Leaders' Lunch series again, with two international guest speakers. In September, we were joined by Gary Van Prooyen, Vice President of Marketing and Communications

at ISACA. Mr Van Prooyen shared his experiences and discussed lessons learned when delivering presentations for executives and boards. In December, we welcomed another international guest speaker, Chris Rees, President of the British Computer Society. Mr Rees walked us through the practical issues and ethical considerations of artificial intelligence.

Through the year we also welcomed the Hon Emily Bourke, MLC, as she launched the *ACS Australia's Digital Pulse 2018* in Adelaide. We supported the national EdXN tour, and we were joined by Dr Vincent Gramoli from the University of Sydney, Chair of the ACS Blockchain Committee, to launch the ACS technical white paper *Blockchain Challenges for Australia*. The latter event was our largest of the year, with more than 160 people in attendance. We also supported the DXC Dandelion Program, with an event that highlighted the Dandelion Program's success in supporting those on the autism spectrum working in the ICT industry.



ACS SA PC Recycling Group volunteer Stefan Kreslin with the Smith Family's SA General Manager Graham Jaeschke.



Dino Rossi, Chief Technologist at DXC, delivers the keynote address: 'What does it really mean to be an IT professional in 2020 – and it's not what you think'.



Dr Vincent Gramoli launches *Blockchain Challenges for Australia*.

# Tasmania

ACS Tasmania is located within Enterprize Tasmania in Hobart, an incubator that aims to support the startup culture and innovation ecosystem in Tasmania.

In FY2018/19, ACS Tasmania saw continual growth in its membership, attracting corporates, startups, individual professionals and students. Key foci for the year were improving the local supply of ICT workers in Tasmania, promoting diversity (of region, gender and age), and strengthening education and employment pathways.

This was achieved through improved relationships with major stakeholders in education, government and industry through digital careers meetups; Tasmania's first BiG Day In Junior and Senior event in Hobart; fundraising for an ICT scholarship; hosting regional events; and launching the Women in ICT Pathways Program in partnership with TasTAFE and the Tasmanian Government.

As a member of the Tasmanian ICT Workforce Development

working group that is informing the development of the Tasmanian Government's ICT Workforce Development Plan, ACS Tasmania has played an active role in the Tasmanian economy by contributing to workforce policy development.

ACS Tasmania also ran more than 30 events that engaged with over 900 members statewide, including students, graduates, mid-career professionals and senior Fellows. Many of these events were achieved through collaborations with industry, regional and educational organisations in Tasmania. For example, a joint agreement formed in late December 2018 between ACS and Engineers Australia has led to a number of productive collaborations and joint events on Industry 4.0.

The Women in ICT Pathways Program, launched in April 2019, is a signature project for ACS Tasmania. It offers practical education and employment advice, and promotes professional development and lifelong learning.

The program aims to attract and retain 36 female students in ICT. Funded by the Tasmanian Department of State Growth, this program is part of a partnership with TasTAFE. For the students, it includes:

- A TasTAFE Certificate III in Information, Digital Media and Technology.
- An ACS professional development program including:
  - ACS membership
  - mentor program
  - work placements
- A graduation ceremony.

The goal is for at least 50% of the students to continue education in ICT (Cert IV, traineeship or ICT tertiary degree). An evidence base will be created, with the aim of scaling the program and making it sustainable.

The program has successfully attracted students, mentors and organisations offering work placements for the 2019 cohort, and has provided a solid foundation to successfully deliver a second cohort in 2020.



EdXN comes to Tasmania.



Attendees at the Women in ICT Pathways launch.

# Victoria

It was another successful year for the Victorian Branch, and one in which several new and exciting activities and initiatives were released for members. It was also a year in which we began building ACS' exciting new branch facilities in Melbourne's Docklands.

The branch's annual Diversity and Inclusion Breakfast launched a new series of workshops that ACS delivered throughout the year. These were aimed at helping members attract diverse talent and create productive and inclusive work environments. The breakfast itself was a huge hit, attracting 120 delegates who heard from several ICT industry leaders as well as the Chair of the Victorian Multicultural Commission, Helen Kapalos.

The branch introduced a series of six recorded and livestreamed events for its

members throughout the year. Online attendances at each of these events was strong, and particularly well received by our regional members. This new series of livestreamed and recorded events will continue to remain a feature on the branch's events calendar, and will provide access for all members to the high-quality speakers that the branch continues to source.

ACS Victoria also introduced a peer-to-peer mentoring model this year, which enabled a large number of industry leaders and professionals to connect. Participants worked together to build a mentoring plan and then assisted each other in building their capability and skills. Special thanks to Agostino Carrideo for his help in inducting this year's mentoring group.

Members had the opportunity to attend several new technical workshop series throughout the year, and a key feature of this year's events and activities calendar was a series of live Lightning Hacks and Game Changing Debates. These activities aimed to provide members with original thought leadership content in an interactive and fun format.

For example, April's artificial intelligence debate featured AI professionals Imad Khan and Ghislaine Enwistle, who debated the extent to which AI would add to or decrease the value of the human workforce. June's Agile Hack saw participants divided into scrum groups, who then worked to produce a Lego city through an agile model in less than 40 minutes. We hope to continue these kinds of events into the new year.



ACS Victoria Branch Chair Maria Markman launches the branch's Diversity and Inclusion Breakfast.



ACS CFO Kim Finch describes the plans for the new Docklands facility.



The Diversity and Inclusion Breakfast panel and speakers. Left to right: Lynn Warneke (Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet), Geoff Purcell (Melbourne Water), Helen Kapalos (Victorian Multicultural Commission), Maria Markman (ACS Victoria), Kelly Taylor (Australia Post), Gerard Holland (Outcome.Life) and Andrew Tulloch (Victorian Government Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions).

# Western Australia

If there were two words to describe FY2018/19, they would be transition and change. There have been many significant changes in the WA Branch throughout the year, with new staff taking over key roles. The Branch Executive Committee has also transitioned from having an operational focus to one of advocacy, advice and representation. The branch has commenced a program of offering services tailored for each of our key membership groups, including established professionals and young professionals.

There have been many great events and activities throughout the year. The Young IT Committee embarked on a series of tech-focused events where various tertiary institutions in Perth hosted events that showcased cutting-edge technology in a particular field. One of the best was the visit to the Curtin University immersive technology hub called the HIVE (Hub for Immersive Visualisation and eResearch). The event had a great combination of information and fun. ACS members were shown

some fascinating projects that the team have been working on.

The ACS Western Australia 2019 State Conference attracted 120 delegates and presenters. One of the highlights was the presentation by keynote speaker Dr Ian Oppermann, NSW Chief Data Scientist and CEO of NSW Data Analytics Centre, who spoke about Harnessing Data for WA to be Competitive.

ACS WA also participated in the ACS Foundation's BiG Day In, which had an incredible 700 students attend on the day. Thanks to the efforts of the ACS Foundation, the future is looking very bright for ICT in Western Australia.

The ACS WA Diversity Dinner, with the theme of 'A Better Me', encouraged everyone to think about who they are, what they love, and to follow a path of continuous improvement so everyone can be their best selves. It was an unforgettable evening filled with laughter, delicious food and exceptional speakers.

The Dennis Moore Oration and 1962 Prize saw around

100 members and guests attend this annual event, held at the University Club of Western Australia. The 2018 distinguished orator was Professor Jingbo Wang, Head of the Department of Physics at the University of Western Australia. She delighted the audience with her presentation on quantum computing. The winner of the prestigious 1962 Prize was also announced. There were finalists from the University of Western Australia, Edith Cowan University and Murdoch University. Professor Dennis Moore presented the winner's certificate to Taaqif Peck, from Murdoch University.

We've also made plans for the new year. In the coming year the key objectives will be ubiquitous awareness of ACS among all ICT students in WA, engagement with Professional Year students, deep tech PD for professional members, and leveraging the SFIA framework to help professional partners develop and retain staff.



Having fun at the Diversity Dinner.



Attendees at this year's WA Conference.

# In Memoriam

**2018 and 2019 saw ACS sadly lose some of its most valued members and longest serving office holders. The society would like to pay tribute to the following luminaries who passed away:**



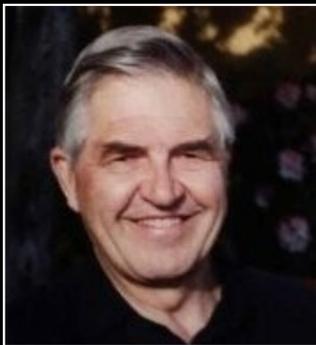
## **Brenda Aynsley**

ACS President 2014-2015 and Vice President between 2002-2003 and 2010-2011, Brenda Aynsley, OAM, passed away in August, 2018.

Brenda, the first female President of ACS, was made a Fellow of the ACS in 2003 and awarded an ACS Honorary Life Membership in 2006, having also served as Chair of the South Australian Branch in 1999-2001, 2005-2006 and 2018.

In 1995, Brenda opened the first internet café in South Australia and was instrumental in establishing the SA Internet Association. In 2000, Brenda established the long-running ACS PC Recycling Special Interest Group to bridge the digital divide by providing low cost computers to less advantaged members of the community.

Brenda passed away on 12 August, 2018 after a long battle with illness.



### Barry De Ferranti

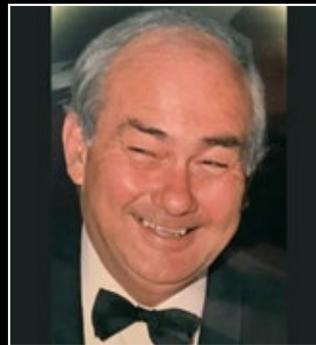
Australian ICT stalwart and ACS Fellow Barry de Ferranti passed away on January 31, 2019, aged 90.

Barry was an Australian computing pioneer in the truest sense, involved in the engineering team that built SILLIAC, Australia's first high-speed computer at the University of Sydney in the 1950s.

The supercomputer, which occupied an entire room in the university physics department, introduced computing to business and paved the way for Australia's first computing science department, which opened in 1961.

Barry credited the SILLIAC with launching Australia's IT revolution, as government and industry began looking to computers to solve the problems they faced.

He also worked alongside ACS Canberra founder Barry Smith on three publications, including *The present and future use of computers in Australia and employment implications* in 1976.



### John Goddard

Former ACS President John Goddard, President from 1986 and 1987, passed away on June 3, 2019 at the age of 83.

John served as Vice President the two years prior and entered the ACS Hall of Fame in 1990.

During John's time as President and Vice President, ACS helped influence government decision making in key areas such as information privacy, software copyright protection, and the Australia Card.

John entered the ACS Hall of Fame in 1990.

As ACS became involved with international IT groups, John also supported the industry's future through his involvement with the Asian-Oceanian Computing Industry Organisation (ASOCIO) and the South-East Asian Regional Computer Confederation (SEARCC).

In the 1994 book *Computing in Australia: The Development of a Profession*, John wrote about the ASOCIO and SEARCC's roles in spreading technology throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

John is survived by his wife Gwen, his two sons Peter and David, his daughter-in-law Tina, and four grandchildren.



# Governance

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

# ACS Management Committee



**Mr Yohan Ramasundara**  
FACS CP  
President



**Mr Anthony Wong**  
FACS CP  
Immediate Past President



**Mr Arnold Wong**  
FACS CP  
National Treasurer



**Mr Andrew Johnson**  
MACS (Snr) CP  
Chief Executive Officer



**Mr Craig Horne**  
MACS (Snr) CP  
Vice President – Community Boards



**Dr Nick Tate**  
FACS CP  
Vice President – Membership Boards



**Dr Ian Oppermann**  
FACS CP  
Vice President – Academic Boards



**Mr Andrew Crawford**  
MACS CP  
National Congressional Representative



**Ms Maria Markman**  
MACS CP  
National Congressional Representative



**Mr George Coldham**  
MACS CP  
National Congressional Representative



**Mr Peter McGill**  
MACS CP  
National Congressional Representative

### **Mr Yohan Ramasundara**

FACS CP  
President

Yohan is an experienced executive with a strong track record of successful achievement of business outcomes. He has led 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 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 Ecovise Environmental. Yohan is the 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.

### **Mr Anthony Wong**

FACS CP  
Immediate Past President

Anthony is the Principal of a multidisciplinary law and consulting firm, AGW Lawyers & Consultants, specialising in IT and the digital economy. He has held senior management positions in multinational corporations and government, including as CIO of the Australian Tourist Commission during the Sydney

2000 Olympics, and led the development of digital publishing for Thomson (now Thomson Reuters) in the Asia Pacific.

### **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.

### **Mr Craig Horne**

MACS (Snr) CP  
Vice President –  
Community Boards

Craig has more than 25 years' experience in senior management and consultancy roles in IT in Australia, including computer science and management information systems. Craig also has more than 15 years' experience as a company director, including in the not-for-profit sector. He holds a Bachelor of Computer Science as well as a Master of Business Administration.

### **Dr Nick Tate**

FACS CP  
Vice President –  
Membership Boards

Nick Tate 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 Ian Oppermann**

FACS CP  
Vice President –  
Academic Boards

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. Ian has an MBA from the University of London and a Doctor of Philosophy in Mobile Telecommunications from the University of Sydney.

### **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.

### **Ms Maria Markman**

MACS CP  
National Congressional  
Representative

Maria has been an active member of ACS over the past nine years. Her commitment to the ICT profession and desire to help promote the roles that women play saw Maria join the ACS Victorian BEC in May 2015. She is currently Chair of the

Victorian BEC, actively making connections between ACS, industry and other organisations that are passionate about gender diversity.

### **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. He is determined to see ICT grow into an inclusive and diverse profession, and will guide ACS towards this end.

### **Mr Peter McGill**

MACS CP  
National Congressional  
Representative

Peter is the Vice Chair of the NT BEC, a member of the national ACS Management Committee and Vice Chair of the national Business Assurance Committee. He has worked over 30 years within the ICT industry across corporate, government and education sectors. During that time he has honed his experience in management, consultancy and operational roles as well as running his own ICT business. He has been a business owner, developer, system/business analyst, IT manager/director, operations manager, project manager and more.

# ACS Advisory Boards

In FY2017/18, 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.

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

## Membership Advisory Board (MAB) and subcommittees

The role of the Membership Advisory Board (MAB) is to provide leadership, strategy, oversight and advice on matters concerning the growth and retention of ACS members. The MAB has three subcommittees: the National Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the Honorary Life Membership Committee and the National Fellows Committee.

Ms Karen Gee is the Director of the MAB and prior to her appointment Dr Rod Dilnutt was the Director until December 31, 2018.

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

Other contributions and support include:

- A discussion paper with feedback about certification.
- Support of the 2018 #TechDiversity awards through sponsorship and in 2019 support through judging.
- The ACS Federal Election manifesto, *Gamechangers*.
- The judging of 2018/19 Fellows, Honorary Life Member and President Award candidates.
- The Diversity and Inclusion

Leaders Series in *Information Age*.

- Review of current Fellows' criteria considering the future of ACS membership.

### National Diversity and Inclusion Committee

The objective of the National Diversity and Inclusion Committee 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 Committee.

### 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 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 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 from Jan 2019)

Dr Rod Dilnutt (Director to Dec 2018)

Mr Michael Hawkins

Mr Kevin Landale

Mr Andrew Crawford

Mr Benjamin Smith

Mr Scott Eastaway

Mr Michael Driver

Mr Mike Edwards

Prof Paulo De Souza

Ms Maria Markman

Ms Michelle Sandford

Ms Brenda Aynsley

Mr Chris Radbone

Mr Sandeep Mathur

Mr David Cook

#### National Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Mr Sandeep Mathur (Chair)

Ms Fadzi Whande

Ms Sarah Adam-Gedge

Mr George Coldham

Mr Johnny Smoes

Ms Joanne Canavan

## National Fellows Committee

Mr David Cook (Chair)  
Mr Tim Turner  
Ms Anastasia Kuusk  
Mr John Graham  
Mr Murali Sagi  
Mr Benjamin Smith  
Mr Scott Eastaway  
Mr Michael Driver  
Prof Paulo De Souza

## Technical Advisory Board (TAB) and subcommittees

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

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

Over the past year, the TAB has contributed substantially to the outputs of ACS, including providing technical reviews for all ACS publications and the development

of reports including: *Privacy in Data Sharing: A Guide for Business and Government* (November 2018); *Blockchain Challenges For Australia* (May 2019); and the Blockchain Industry Survey.

In February 2019, the TAB also conducted a series of Directed Ideation competitions that successfully developed an approach to the challenge of systematically identifying privacy risk factors within linked sets of data. This world-first project has been seen by international standards bodies as a critical area for research and development, allowing us to better utilise the ever-growing data being amassed by global industry and governments, while still preserving the privacy of those individuals we seek to benefit.

The TAB has also developed the following submissions to government:

- Australian Public Service Commission: Learning Development Standards
- My Health Record – Opt Out Period Extension
- Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment (Assistance and Access) Bill 2018
- Response to Government – Australian Government Data Sharing Legislation Issues Paper.

## Members of TAB and subcommittees

### Technical Advisory Board

Dr Ian Oppermann (Vice President)  
Dr Michael Blumenstein (Director)  
Mr Geof Heydon  
Ms Ghislaine Entwisle  
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  
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 Anthony Wong  
Prof Artur Lugmayr  
Dr Dale Mackrell  
Dr Marcus Belder  
Prof Oliver Burmeister  
Assoc Prof Paul Haskell-Dowland  
Prof Simeon Simoff  
Mr Ted Smillie

## **Standards Australia Representatives**

Mr Andrew Johnson  
Ms Gandhi Sivakumar  
Mr George Nikandros  
Mr John Graham  
Dr Jon Mason  
Ms Judith Ellis  
Ms Katie Payten  
Dr Michael Blumenstein  
Mr Neville Turbit  
Assoc Prof Paul Haskell-Dowland  
Mr Samuel Brooks  
Mr Vipula Godamunne  
Dr Wen Hu

# Profession Advisory Board (PAB) and subcommittees

The key role of the Profession Advisory Board (PAB) is to work 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 that portfolio and provides expert advice and thought leadership to ACS on matters related to professional standards.

The PAB includes of four subcommittees – Accreditation

(AC), Ethics (EC), ICT Educators (ICTEC) and Professional Education Governance (PEGC) – as well as a Cyber Resilience Task Force that was approved by the Management Committee in September 2018 for a 12-month term. The PAB also provides representation on IFIP TC3 (Education) and the Board of the Australian Council for Computers in Education (ACCE).

Over the past year, the PAB has contributed substantially to ACS professional standards activities, including providing determinations on accreditation and supplementary visit matters; advice on accreditation reform and accreditation of cyber security degrees; member education on professional ethics; a review of the ACS Code of Conduct (ongoing); input into the ACS ICT Educators Community of Practice; feedback and advice on ACS educational offerings including micro credentials, the Professional Year program and Work Readiness program; and review of and advice on the ACS Professional Standards Scheme.

The PAB has also provided review and input into:

- Skills for Australia IT Focus Groups
- ACS' 2019 Federal Election Manifesto
- The Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment (Assistance and Access) Bill 2018
- The Skills for Australia ICT Training Package Product Review
- Draft Policy on Standards of ACS Member Conduct on Social Media.

## **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  
Assoc Prof Jan Newmarch  
Prof Leon Stirling  
Dr Marta Indulska  
Prof Matt Warren  
Dr Paul Strooper

### **Cyber Resilience Task Force**

Prof Matt Warren (Chair)  
Prof Michael Johnson  
Assoc Prof Richard Buckland  
Prof William (Bill) Caelli

### **Ethics Committee**

Dr Michael Wildenauer (Chair)  
Dr Kirsten Wahlstrom (Vice Chair)  
Prof Alex Reid  
Dr Anisha Fernandez  
Mr Georg Thomas  
Assoc Prof Marcus Wigan  
Prof Oliver Burmeister  
Mr Philip Argy (Attendee)  
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**

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.

As at 30 June 2019

Mr Yohan Ramasundara, FACS CP	President
Mr Anthony Wong, FACS CP	Immediate Past President
Mr Arnold Wong, FACS CP	National Treasurer
Mr Craig Horne, MACS (Snr) CP	Vice President – Community Boards
Dr Ian Oppermann, FACS CP	Vice President – Academic Boards
Dr Nicholas Tate, FACS CP	Vice President – Membership Boards
Ms Karen Gee, MACS (Snr) CP	Director – Membership Advisory Board
Prof Michael Blumenstein, FACS	Director – Technical Advisory Board
Prof Michael Johnson, FACS CP	Director – Profession Advisory Board
Mr Andrew Crawford, MACS CP	Congressional Representative (NSW)
Ms Conni Marais, MACS CT	Congressional Representative (NSW)
Ms Maria Markman, MACS CP	Congressional Representative (VIC)
Mr Richard Magalad, MACS (Snr) CP	Congressional Representative (VIC)
Dr Paul Campbell, FACS	Congressional Representative (QLD)
Mr Michael Driver, FACS CP	Congressional Representative (QLD)
Mr George Coldham, MACS CP	Congressional Representative (WA)
Ms Michelle Sandford, MACS (Snr) CP	Congressional Representative (WA)
Mr Peter McGill, MACS CP	Congressional Representative (NT)
Mr Benjamin Smith, MACS CP	Congressional Representative (NT)
Prof Paulo de Souza, MACS (Snr) CP	Congressional Representative (TAS)
Mr Ray Leonard, MACS CP	Congressional Representative (TAS)
Ms Jo Stewart-Rattray, FACS CP	Congressional Representative (SA)
Mr Chris Radbone, MACS (Snr) CP	Congressional Representative (SA)
Mr Kevin Landale, MACS CP	Congressional Representative (CANB)
Mr Michael Hawkins, MACS CP	Congressional Representative (CANB)
Mr Andrew Johnson, MACS (Snr) CP	Chief Executive Officer

# Branch Executive Committees

As at 30 June 2019

## Canberra

### Chair

Kevin Landale

### Vice Chair

Vacant

### Immediate Past Chair

Michael Hawkins

### Honorary Secretary

Douglas Hill

### Honorary Treasurer

Jeffery Mitchell

### Committee Members

Chakradhar Ravinuthala

Manik Mahajan

Gavin Fairlamb

Justine Spina

Shefali Sehgal

## New South Wales

### Chair

Andrew Crawford

### Vice Chair

Craig Baty

### Vice Chair

Conni Marais

### Immediate Past Chair

Richard Baecher

### Honorary Secretary

Alan McLeod

### Honorary Treasurer

Cindy Chung

### Committee Members

Ashley Maher

Nikesh Lalchandani

Ana Hol

Christopher Payne

Harpal Degun

Phil Redding

## Northern Territory

### Chair

Benjamin Smith

### Vice Chair

Peter McGill

### Committee Members

Edwin Joseph

Scott Eastaway

Katie James

Ashwin Kumar

## Queensland

### Chair

Michael Driver

### Vice Chair

Beau Tydd

### Vice Chair

Marilyn Wells

### Immediate Past Chair

Nicholas Tate

### Honorary Secretary

Paul Campbell

### Honorary Treasurer

Bevin Irvine

### Committee Members

Nick Brant

Fiona Foley

Andrew Kriedemann

Darren Oliver

Elena Schamp

Neil Wood

Peter Yeates

## **South Australia**

### **Chair**

Chris Radbone

### **Vice Chair**

Cate Hilliard

### **Vice Chair**

Jo Stewart-Rattray

### **Immediate Past Chair**

Vacant

### **Honorary Secretary**

David Bryce

### **Honorary Treasurer**

John Bonnett

### **Committee Members**

Peter Griffith

Heath James

Anastasia Kuusk

Yohan De Silva

## **Tasmania**

### **Chair**

Paulo de Souza

### **Vice Chair**

Ray Leonard

### **Immediate Past Chair**

Mike Edwards

### **Honorary Secretary**

Jacky Hartnett

### **Honorary Treasurer**

Jonathan McComb

### **Committee Members**

Adam Gordon

David Griffiths

Ken Price

Marina Geldard

Mitch Thors

Paris Buttfield-Addison

Shaun Hevey

Tony Cruise

Caroline Snadden

## **Victoria**

### **Chair**

Maria Markman

### **Vice Chair**

Katerina Andronis

### **Immediate Past Chair**

Craig Horne

### **Honorary Secretary**

John Graham

### **Honorary Treasurer**

Cecily MacDougall

### **Committee Members**

Cynthia Lee

Karen Gee

Lidia Ribarovska

Lynn Warneke

Matthew Horne

Richard Magalad

Ghislaine Entwisle

Steven Pereira

## **Western Australia**

### **Chair**

Michelle Sandford

### **Vice Chair**

George Coldham

### **Vice Chair**

Anle-Marne Pretorius

### **Immediate Past Chair**

Tony Errington

### **Honorary Secretary**

David Cook

### **Honorary Treasurer**

John Walczak

### **Committee Members**

Arnold Wong

Anthony Sciorilli

Matt Moncrieff

Ming Johanson

Brian von Konsky

Vito Forte

Vivienne Conway

Eric Torres

## 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 10 years.

Two Honorary Life Memberships were awarded in this financial year:

**Mr Andrew Freeman**

**Mr Ian Dennis**

## 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:

**Ms Jacqueline Harnett**

**Professor Paulo De Souza**

**Mr David A Wood**

**Dr Vivienne Conway**

## President's Awards

The ACS President's Award is awarded quarterly in recognition of the contribution made by a volunteer to ACS and to the professional of members of the society. 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.

### 2018 Q3 winner

Mrs Cecily Macdougall

### 2018 Q4 winner

Mr Matthew Warren

### Overall 2018 winner

Ms Karen Gee

### 2019 Q1 winner

Mr Richard Magalad

### 2019 Q2 winner

Ms Cynthia Lee

# Contact Us

## Member Services General Enquiries

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### Victoria

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