



New Zealand Computer Society
Annual Report 2008

Authored by:

Don Robertson, President

Paul Mathews, CEO

About The New Zealand Computer Society

NZCS is the professional body of ICT professionals in New Zealand, and works hard on behalf of our profession and the sector as a whole.

NZCS VISION STATEMENT

NZCS delivers ever-increasing professional ICT capability for NZ Society and Industry.

NZCS MISSION STATEMENT

NZCS exists as the representative body that sets standards, practices and policies for ICT Professionals in NZ.

NZCS works with ICT professionals, government, the industry and the community to increase the professionalism and expertise of those working in the ICT sector (and hence the professional standing and reputation of our profession).

Society representatives also actively represent the profession and the sector on many different policy and standards-setting boards across NZ and the world.

Our members are typically those that place a high priority on professionalism in the delivery of ICT solutions and have committed to improving the standards of the ICT industry. Professional membership of the Society requires a proven dedication to professionalism plus a combination of education and experience, plus a commitment to the Society's Code of Ethics.

Put simply, our members believe professionalism matters in IT.

The NZCS also works closely with a number of international collaborative organisations such as the [IFIP](#) and [SEARCC](#), as well as our kindred societies across the globe (including the [ACS](#), [BCS](#), [ACM](#), [CIPS](#), and [IEEE](#) Computer Societies).

NZCS Directory

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President's Report 2008

Introduction

What a busy and fruitful year it has been. Apart from the usual frantic pace of change in the ICT environment the Society has continued to evolve at a rapid rate. There has been significant change and improvement in many of the Society's operational and long term strategic initiatives.

It is increasingly satisfying to see many of our members volunteering and getting involved with some exciting initiatives. The Council and Branches have worked hard this year on furthering the strategic initiatives and I am pleased to report excellent progress especially on the introduction of the Professional Certification standard ITCP. The increased engagement with Government, Ministries, Industry, and Academia is bearing fruit with enhanced cooperation, understanding and progress on a number of fronts including raising the profile and credibility of NZCS as the body representing practising ICT professionals. Internationally NZCS is continuing to engage with our kindred organisations and this is paying off with positive cooperation and opening access to a wealth of information to the Society and our members.

The landmark report on the School Assessment standards covering ICT has stimulated plans for major changes and improvements.

The Council was delighted that Acting CEO, Paul Matthews accepted a permanent contract to continue as CEO of the Society.

I am pleased to confirm that the Society's status as a Charitable Organisation was confirmed under the new Charity rules.

During 2008 I was able to visit Europe on a fact-finding trip for our certification plans, which enabled me to meet with the BCS, SFIA in the UK and to attend the IFIP World Computer Congress (WCC2008) in Milan Italy. The meeting with BCS and SFIA proved extremely useful in furthering our contacts with these organisations and providing direct input to the research for the NZCS professional certification programme.

WCC2008 was a huge conference attended by some 1500 delegates representing most countries in the world. This conference is the major event for IFIP enabling all the Technical Committees to share information and further research in their chosen fields. It very beneficial providing many contacts from across the world and providing excellent input for the certification programme.

While at WCC2008 I was delighted on behalf of NZCS and representing New Zealand to sign the WCC Declaration of ICT Professionalism and Competencies (see <http://tinyurl.com/mxp5gu>). The Declaration is the next step in creating a global ICT profession, and set up the importance and priorities of professionalism as agreed by the world's representative ICT bodies.

A visit to the Australian Computer Society (ACS) proved fruitful establishing closer cooperation between our organisations and also input to the professional certification research.

I would like to thank the Council for their hard work this year. We have established an excellent working relationship enabling a significant amount of work to be achieved. I look forward to the Society implementing a number of strategic initiatives in the coming year.

Thanks also to the Operations staff ably led by CEO Paul Matthews. The small team have achieved amazing results in a very short time.

Strategy Initiatives

In late 2007 the Council confirmed the following strategic direction:

Mission: NZCS exists as the representative body that sets standards, practices & policies for ICT Professionals in New Zealand.

Vision: NZCS delivers ever-increasing professional ICT Capability for New Zealand society and industry

Goals for 2012:

1. **Certification:** NZCS Professional ICT certification is in place and widely accepted in New Zealand.
2. **Experiential knowledge:** The NZCS body of experiential knowledge significantly contributes to the success of ICT practice in New Zealand.
3. **Independent Advice:** Certified members of the NZCS are the source of authoritative independent advice on ICT in New Zealand.
4. **Advocacy:** Proactively addressing key ICT issues while advocating productive, widespread ICT use in NZ in accordance with NZCS ethical and professional standards

At the beginning of 2008 the council set out 3 major goals for the year:

1. *Systems & Operation Processes Improvement:*
Continue to improve and rebuild/replace the operational processes, membership register, event, and billing and finance systems.
2. *Membership Retention and Growth:*
Look to the retention and growth of membership including revamping the membership information on the website.
3. *Professional Certification:*
Focus as the top priority on the Professional Practitioner Certification.

I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made on all fronts. Additionally there has been a substantial lift in public relations with press releases, and media enquires requesting comment from the Society on a range of matters.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Robertson', written over a white background.

Don Robertson
President

Chief Executive's Report 2008

Those present at the AGM for the 2007 year will know the Society faced a number of challenges at the start of 2008. These were predominantly focused around significant deficiencies in the operation and systems of the Society, as well as an unclear direction for the organisation moving forward.

The NZCS Executive and I set a number of operational objectives for the organisation when I took over the reins of CEO permanently at the start of 2008. These included:

- Significantly improve the operations of the Society, including improving or replacing all systems (technical and manual), replacement of the NZCS website and membership/events system, and implement proper procedures throughout all operational areas;
- Arrest what was a rapid decline in membership by significantly increasing the relevance and profile of the organisation;
- Turn around the significantly negative financial outlook of the Society;
- Implement long-overdue professional certification for ICT professionals as a key plank to lifting the professional delivery of ICT in New Zealand;
- Advocate for much needed and significant improvements in ICT education in New Zealand, particularly at secondary level;
- Increase the relevance and purpose of the organisation.

Coming from an ICT and business background, from my perspective the only way we could hope to achieve an outcome was by ascertaining what our purpose was before we began. I say this with no disrespect for the history and institution that is and was the Society, however in business, only those that have and serve a purpose survive and an organisation such as ours should be no different.

This wasn't hard. Of all sectors, ICT in New Zealand desperately needed a responsible and proactive professional body. ICT was and is suffering from a huge skills shortage, deficiencies in education, lack of professional standards, lack of recognition, lowly perception and a host of other problems, hence rebuilding NZCS as truly the body for ICT professionals, and as a responsive body serving the ICT profession that believed in ACTION and bringing about change was critical.

In short, we had lost our way. NZCS could no longer exist for NZCS's sake – it had to truly exist for the profession and truly exist for the ICT sector as a whole, and it was on top of that concept that a large team including the National Council, Branch Committees, operational staff and myself rebuilt the foundations of our organisation during 2008.

The consequence of this outlook was that the NZCS team achieved more than satisfactory results in all of the objectives for the year, as well as many others. And with a solid foundation and dedicated team we look forward to 2009 and beyond, and everything our fine organisation is able to achieve with great anticipation.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Matthews". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Matthews
Chief Executive

National Operations and Administration

During 2008 the Society underwent a significant modernisation of systems and processes and a significant cleanup of membership and other information.

The Admin Team, lead by NZCS Office Manager Diane Cain, put in a massive effort sorting a huge range of issues with the administration and systems at the Society, and the membership owes them no small debt of gratitude.

In line with the belief that the Society should be an exemplar for the use of technology, the Society's technology was also updated including both hardware (servers, workstations, etc), and software – with the implementation of a new website and creation of a new membership/events system.

This provided updated look and feel, more streamlined and reliable online membership/events management, including the introduction of News, press releases, blogs, podcasts and forums. This has proved to be an excellent show case for the Society and generated many positive comments.

The work of cleaning up the financial accounts started in 2007 continued apace resulting in a vastly improved accounting accuracy and reporting.

Late in the year the old finance system was retired enabling the introduction of Xero Accounting from the 2009 financial year, which provided significant improvements over the old system. This was another major milestone in the systems improvement plan.

We also saw the departure of long-standing staff member Jane Scott, who we wish well. Before leaving, Jane put in a significant effort in helping tidy up the membership database.

Membership

Honorary Fellows of the NZCS (HFNZCS)

From time to time the Society recognises the significant long-term contribution made by an individual to the ICT sector or NZCS by conferring the title of Honorary Fellow of the NZCS (HFNZCS).

Honorary Fellow is the highest honour that can be bestowed on an individual in the ICT profession and is very highly regarded both in New Zealand and around the world.

Congratulations to the **David Cunliffe** and **Rod Drury** awarded HFNZCS during 2008.

Current Honorary Fellows are:

Prof Mark Apperley, HFNZCS	John Good, HFNZCS	Prof Philip Sallis, HFNZCS
Dr Colin Boswell, HFNZCS	Derham McAven, HFNZCS	Sir Gil Simpson, HFNZCS
Prof Bevan Clarke, HFNZCS	Bruce Moon, HFNZCS	Nicola Walmsley, HFNZCS
Hon David Cunliffe, HFNZCS	Jack Morgan, HFNZCS	Hon Maurice Williamson, HFNZCS
Prof Bob Doran, HFNZCS	Ralph Norris, HFNZCS	Donald Wilson, HFNZCS
Rod Drury, HFNZCS	Chris Potter, HFNZCS	Laurence Zwimpfer, HFNZCS
Gillian Eadie, HFNZCS	Dr John Robinson, HFNZCS	

These individuals have worked hard over a long period of time for the ICT profession and are an inspiration to all of us.

Fellows of the NZCS [FNZCS]

Fellow status is only achieved by those that hold a position of eminence or authority within the discipline of Information Technology.

The Society's Fellows represent a unique base of knowledge and skills that underpin all aspects of the Society and help ensure that we maintain our status as the society of IT Professionals.

The current NZCS Fellows (FNZCS) are:

John Beatson	Perce Harpham	Ian Mitchell
Dr Robert Biddle	Jim Higgins	Prof Steve Reeves
Brian Boutel	Alison Holt	Gillian Reid
Douglas Brown	Ian Howard	Clive Smallman
Dr Brian Cox	Robert Irving	Felix Tan
Sally Jo Cunningham	Neil James	Chai Keong Toh
Ray Delany	Dr Lech Janczewski	Miles Trent
Sriyan De Silva	Professor Nikola Kasabov	Dr Henry (Hank) Wolfe
Priyanka De Zoysa	Warren Marett	Prof Wai Yeap
Ralph Green	Andrew Mason	Alison Young

Membership Survey 2008

As with 2007, the Society completed an annual Membership Survey at the end of 2008.

The survey showed a significant upturn in the perceived value and direction of the Society, although with some work still to do.

NZCS will continue to survey members on an annual basis to aid in management and strategic decision making, and members can be assured that their views are considered in detail.

Membership Statistics

During the year a significant cleanup of the Society's membership records occurred. This resulted in a number of individuals being removed from the database who were previously recorded as a member, however had not been recorded when they had previously resigned.

Hence, membership numbers appeared static (with around 1500 individual members and 80-100 corporate partners), however in actuality this represented an increase of *actual* members in 2008.

Member Type	Auckland	Wellington	Canterbury	Waikato	Otago	Overseas	Total
Professional Member	143	149	51	24	18	19	404
Affiliate Member	122	143	31	8	9	4	317
Member (Staff of CP)	64	65	6	2	10		147
Joint Member - InternetNZ	1					1	2
Joint Member - ISSIG	5	14	1		1	1	22
Joint - ISSIG / Staff of CP	1	6	1		2		10
Joint - ISSIG / Retired	1						1
Joint Member - WIT	5	12					17
Complimentary Member	35	67	10	5	5	2	124
Overseas Member	2	2	1			58	63
Overseas Student Member	1					6	7
Retired Member	12	16	4	4	4	2	42
Student Member	197	32	12	12	4		257
Graduate Member	6	4	2		2	1	15
Corp Partner - 1-4 staff	1	1					2
Corp Partner - 5-11 staff		9		1	1	1	12
Corp Partner - 12-49 staff	3	9		1	1		14
Corp Partner - 50+ staff	12	21	1				34
Educational Partner	7	3	2	2	2		16
Total	618	553	122	59	59	95	1506

Events Programme

In 2008 NZCS ran around 100 events for ICT professionals in New Zealand in all the main centres plus a number of smaller regions.

Here are a few of the highlights :

- Introduction of the “Innovators of ICT” series of national presentations in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Hamilton
- Launch of ICTTOP100 by Auckland Branch
- Very successful branch lunches in Wellington
- Management Breakfasts (in conjunction with WIT) in Auckland and Wellington
- Continuation of the long-running WFIA Breakfast in Auckland
- An active speaker and events programme in Canterbury
- A number of well attended events in Dunedin and Hamilton
- NZCS Leaders Forum bringing together the Council and the branch Chairs
- NZCS Programming Contest
- Joint NZCS/WIT 2008 ICT Political ICT Panel Debate
- Imagine Cup – (Strategic Partnership with Microsoft)

Many of the events in 2008 broke NZCS attendance records, with speakers such as Rod Drury drawing hundreds nationwide.

NZCS Council 2008/9

The National Council is the governing body of the NZ Computer Society and is responsible for the overall governance, direction and functions of the Society. The Council is has an Executive (President, Deputy President and CEO) plus a representative from each branch.

NZCS Executive

The Executive is responsible for the day-to-day running and management of the Society under the governance and direction of the full Council. The CEO sits on Council in a non-voting capacity.



Paul Matthews
Chief Executive



Don Robertson
NZCS President



Dave Cowman
Deputy President

Branch-elected Councillors

Each of the five Society branches elects a National Council representative to serve on the Council. Councillors serve for a 2-year term and can then be elected for additional 1-year terms.



Ian Mitchell
Auckland Branch



Jo Komisarczuk
Wellington Branch



David Hallett
Waikato/BOP Branch



Steve Davis
Canterbury Branch



Anthony Dowling
Otago Branch

NZCS Branch Committee Chairs 2008

The NZCS is a truly nationwide organisation with branches throughout the country. Each branch coordinates a range of local events, furthers the organisation's interests in their region, provides valuable feedback through to the national organisation, and helps ensure we maintain a truly nationwide agenda.

Each branch has an active Branch Committee which coordinates local activities of the NZCS. The following were the Branch Chairs in 2008:



Ann McKenzie
Auckland Branch Chair



David Hallett
Waikato Branch Chair



Liz Eastwood
Wellington Branch Chair



Alan McKinnon
Canterbury Branch Chair



Dave Eggers
Otago Branch Chair

Working Groups

Professional Certification Working Group

A Certification working Group was formed under the chairmanship of President Don Robertson to oversee the establishment of ICT professional certification in New Zealand. The aim of the working group was to research and create an internationally aligned ICT professional certification model for implementation in 2009.

The Working Group became an excellent sounding board for those putting together the Certification model and provided significant input into the process.

A draft discussion paper was created and released outlining the Certification Programme.

The approach to implementing a Competency Framework and Professional Certification was presented to the ICT Qualifications Steering Group, a group assembled from government and the sector to look into an ICT Competency Framework. This was part of an RFI response to become the Lead Organisation for this project, and the NZCS initiative received a very strong endorsement from the Group.

After investigating the NZCS's plans in detail, the Steering Group concluded that "the NZCS is the logical organisation to lead the development of a Competence Framework for ICT professionals in New Zealand and endorses the approach that is being taken to achieve this."

The Society's bid to lead this project was also supported by every key ICT sector organisation in New Zealand, as well the key drivers of ICT Certification internationally.

The working group carried out research during 2008 on certification models around the world in other bodies leading to a draft certification model for consideration by all stakeholders in New Zealand.

Thanks go to the working group members for their assistance in putting together the Certification model for New Zealand.

NZCS Code of Professional Conduct

The research into the introduction of Professional Certification identified there was a need to review the current Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.

A small informal Working Group on Ethics was setup and chaired by Dave Cowman, NZCS Deputy President to research into what changes are required to bring the current codes up to the required international standards.

Mentoring

A Mentoring Working Group was established to revamp NZCS's Nationwide ICT Mentoring Programme, ensuring young ICT professionals have the support they need when entering the sector, and aligning the programme to what was the Government's draft Digital Strategy 2.0.

A team lead by NZCS Fellow Ray Delany conducted a full review of the current ICT Mentoring Programme, as well as a number of other programmes in New Zealand and around the world, and devised a model for implementation of ICT mentoring in New Zealand.

Providing mentoring for young ICT practitioners as they move towards an ICT Professional level is an important example of the work the Society is undertaking on a national level. The NZCS will be embarking on a number of other initiatives shortly to ensure barriers to entry into ICT are removed for our professionals of tomorrow, and to encourage the best and the brightest in the country to consider a career in ICT.

The Mentoring Programme will be re-implemented around the country during 2009, and we strongly encourage you to take part as either a mentor or mentee. And no, it's not just for those new to the profession - very few people wouldn't benefit from mentoring.

ICT Connect

NZCS were proud to announce the establishment of a Working Group to re-establish the NZCS Professionals in Schools Programme, dubbed *ICT-Connect*.

ICT-Connect will coordinate groups of ICT professionals in each region "adopting" intermediate and secondary schools, presenting to students about the engaging, exciting and dynamic nature of ICT as a career, as well as providing a vital connection between computing and ICT teachers and the wider ICT community. Computing teachers achieve a heap with little support from the sector, and it's time we stood up and helped them make a difference for the next generation of ICT professionals.

This work will continue into 2009 and is currently undergoing pilots in

NZCS 50th Anniversary – a celebration of 50 years of ICT Innovation

NZCS was constituted in October 1960, so in 2010 NZCS celebrates its 50th Anniversary. To ensure this milestone for the Society and for Computing and ICT innovation in New Zealand is celebrated in an appropriate way a 50th Anniversary Working Group has been setup Chaired by Elizabeth Eastwood (immediate past Chair of the Wellington Branch).

This working group will look at a number of ways to celebrate this milestone across the country during 2010 including a conference with the theme **“Celebrating 50 Years of Innovation in ICT”**.

Other Society Activities

Digital Literacy Division

As a professional body our role isn't just looking after ICT professionals, but make an impact on the education and skill level of the general public in an ICT context as well.

Through a wholly owned subsidiary Computing New Zealand (CNZL), NZCS puts in a huge effort targeting digital literacy in New Zealand especially within the school, community and business sectors.

Rebecca Boyce has spearheaded our Digital Literacy drive and has secured our license for ICDL for another 5 years, meaning we can now expand on our previous work and significantly increase the level of digital literacy in NZ. Well done Rebecca.

In order to increase our focus and impact on this area the Council and Board of CNZL agreed to move the Digital Literacy activities out of CNZL and into NZCS, therein creating a Digital Literacy division focused solely on tackling digital literacy and the improvement of base ICT skills in New Zealand.

You'll be hearing about a number of exciting changes in this area in 2009 to enable us to have an even greater impact in this area.

Independent Advice

NZCS is called upon regularly to provide guidance and independent advice. There are a number of examples of this, including the appointment of Alison Holt to ISO/IEC JTC1/SC7/IT-30 Aus/NZ Joint Committee as the NZCS Representative.

NZCS also provided significant assistance to Career Services to bring their ICT career advice and online presence up-to-date to ensure those looking to ICT as a profession have access to the latest information.

Advocacy

Digital Strategy 2

NZCS Submissions to the Government Digital Strategy 2 resulted in NZCS being named within the Government Strategy paper under an action to Implement professional standards and qualification equivalency in New Zealand and to implement a framework of professional standards and international benchmarks for ICT qualifications.

The Society also advocated a number of positions during 2008. Some examples are below.

NCEA Assessment Standards Report

A comprehensive and objective report prepared by NZCS found serious and significant failings in a number of ICT-related NCEA Technology Achievement Standards at Secondary School level.

The report, authored by Digital Technology Guidelines (DTG) National Advisory Group NZCS Representative Gordon Grimsey and NZCS member and teacher Margot Phillipps was reviewed and

edited by 13 senior Computing and ICT tertiary-level academics and practitioners from all corners of New Zealand.

The report aimed to assess which of 18 specified generic and ICT-related Technology Achievement Standards were appropriate for preparing students for tertiary Computer Science study and which were appropriate for the assessment of “end-user computing”.

Achievement Standards are registered on the National Qualifications Framework and contribute towards the National Certificates of Educational Achievement (NCEA) for secondary school students throughout New Zealand.

The report concluded that after critically examining the 18 specified technology achievement standards, we believe that none of the standards reviewed in this report are appropriate to assess either Computer Science or enduser computing at the secondary school level.

We're now in constant contact with the Ministry of Education (as well as Computing teachers), and are significantly contributing to the *"Digital Technologies Expert Panel"*, a group assembled following the report and advising the Ministry on ICT educational matter. This group is assembled from representatives of NZCS, industry, academia, teaching professionals and others to give input and significant direction to the process of establishing new standards (as well as considering the wider curriculum issues).

NZCS Speaks out against new Copyright Amendment Bill Section 92a

NZCS generally steers clear of criticising laws, however in the case of Section 92a of the new Copyright (New Technologies) Amendment Bill we, like most others in the sector, had to make an exception. Copyright owners absolutely have the right to protect their intellectual property, and NZCS and others are not for one second saying otherwise. To state it clearly: Copyright violation is a major problem, and we support moves to reduce it.

However in our view this law trampled the rights of computer and internet users, and placed ISPs in the impossible position of potentially having to be the policeman, judge, jury and executioner in what are often vague and unclear situations – a situation that was clearly unreasonable.

NZCS released a number of press releases and applied pressure directly along with many others calling for a repeal of section 92a.

It is pleasing to see that reason prevailed and the Government finally repealed this clause.

Other Activities

There were a huge range of other activities the Society has been involved in over the last year, far too many to mention here.

Without fail, these were designed to help grow or assist the ICT profession or the public from an ICT perspective, and we're proud of the huge range of achievements throughout the 2008 year.

New Zealand ICT Representation

During this latter half of the 2007 central government determined that the ICT-NZ venture was not working and that a new approach should be investigated. The government commissioned a wide consultation throughout the ICT sector and to provide a recommendation back to government on options for ICT Sector representation. Several NZCS members were involved in providing the NZCS and individual views into this consultation. Part of that announcement was the demise of ICT-NZ and HiGrowth.

Digital Development Council and Forum – Rise and Demise

The end result of the consultation was that a new independent umbrella group (Digital Development Council and Digital Development Forum) was to be set up in 2008 with NZCS as a foundation member. NZCS was involved in creating the constitution and rules that the DDC would work under.

An inaugural Digital Forum was organised providing input from many ICT and community organisations.

A number of high priority initiatives/projects were identified and planning was progressing. However with a change in Government came a change in approach which saw the demise of the DDC before it had a chance to achieve any real gains.

However the close collaboration between the members of the DDC has been beneficial and is continuing with the organisations continuing to work together on mutual ventures.

New Vendor Group - NZICT

Emerging from the demise of ICT-NZ, and filling the gap left by the earlier demise of ITANZ, was a new Vendor representative organisation called NZICT.

The purpose of NZICT is to represent vendor organisations, and work to promote policy that assists in the growth of the ICT sector.

This organisation is continuing to evolve and NZCS has been supportive in assisting with its establishment. The purpose of a Vendor Association is considerably different to that of a Professional Body such as NZCS. A vendor association works to provide a collaboration mechanism for businesses to work together in the interests of the industry whereas a professional body is concerned with the development of individual ICT professionals.

NZCS strongly supports this organisation, and has a strong working relationship with NZICT.

Obituary William (Bill) Williams 1924 - 2008

Past Executive Officer of the Society, Bill Williams, HFNZCS past passed away during the year.

Bill was an early member of the NZ Computer Society - a Wellington Branch President and a Member of the National Council. He became the Society's part time Secretary, and later, it's Executive Director. In this period he saw the National Office grow from a "one man band" to a completely self sufficient organisation with permanent staff and premises. In the interim he did all the routine secretarial work, with clerical help from the Royal Society, from whom the computer society rented premises.

He also became interested in the use of computers to help disabled people and was a founder member of the Technical Aid Trust, a group of professional medical and computer volunteers set up for this purpose. Originally it was based on the work of Neil Scott and Paul Bryant at the Wellington Polytechnic who had developed the Poly Computer and Sylvia Spear from the Kimi Ora School for Disabled Children. Bill saw the potential benefits of this work and threw the weight of the Computer Society behind it. The Trust became a pioneer in the field of helping disabled people through the use of micro computers, especially those with severe communication problems.

He was among those who realised at an early stage the extent of changes the widespread use of computers would bring about and the responsibility of computer practitioners to ensure the public was informed both of the potential benefits and possible dangers of the misuse of these powers. His belief was that unjustified fears could prevent benefits from being realised and equally that passive acceptance could result in an unacceptable erosion of the rights of individuals.

Through the Computer society he was instrumental in setting up a joint study group with the Law Society, the Human Rights Commission and the Medical Council which resulted in an agreed position on how those holding personal information should *respect* the privacy of individuals. This has gained general acceptance.

He strongly supported those attempting to use computers as an aid to learning in the classroom and in the formation of the New Zealand Heritage Project which would have involved every school in New Zealand in the establishment of a "Doomsday" computer base giving a "snapshot" of the country at its 150th anniversary. Had this come to fruition it would have provided an invaluable tool for future classroom instruction.

He also became concerned with problems arising from the growing use of computers to control systems which, should they malfunction, could result in personal injury or loss of life - the so called Safety Critical Systems. Again at his initiative a joint working group was established between the Computer Society and the Institution of Professional Engineers (I.P.E.N.Z.) with the aim of providing guidance in this area.

On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Computer Society he assumed responsibility for the production of a book "Looking Back to Tomorrow", giving an outline of the Society's activities in its first 25 years. He was helped in this project by his wife, Judy, who did the illustrations. As one reviewer, K.W. Smillie in Canada said, "All of those who contributed their time and effort in this work as well as those who underwrote it deserve praise. They have produced a valuable record of N.Z.

computing which will be enjoyed not only by those who helped make this history but by those in other countries who wish to learn about the development of computing in a country, which, for many of us, is so far away.”

Again, through the Computer Society he was influential in gaining changes in legislation relating to the Wanganui Computer Centre, Election Reform, the Crimes Act (as it affected computer crime) the Copyright Act (relating to the protection of computer software) and provisions for protection of personal information. He was a strong advocate for the need to provide adequate legislation deterrents to the activities of so called “computer hackers” who had the potential not only to do untold damage to commercial computer systems but also to create a major catastrophe if they interfere with safety critical systems. He was also very interested in the use of computers in education, both as teaching aids and as subjects to be studied.

NZCS Corporate and Education Partners

The Society is very appreciative of the support received from our Corporate and Educational Partners:



Affiliated and Associated Kindred Partners

The NZCS is part of an international community of professional bodies, working together to improve the delivery and standards of ICT globally.

New Zealand Kindred Partners

- Association of Local Government Information management (ALGIM)
- Canterbury Software Cluster
- Employers and Manufacturer's Association (EMA)
- Internet NZ (INZ)
- Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ)
- National Advisory Committee of Computer Qualifications (NACCO)
- Project Management Institute of New Zealand (PMINZ)
- Royal Society of New Zealand (RSNZ)
- Technical Communications Association of New Zealand Inc (TCANZ)
- Telecommunications Users Association of New Zealand (TUANZ)
- Women in Technology (WIT)

International Kindred Partners

- Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)
- Australian Computer Society (ACS)
- British Computer Society (BCS)
- Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS)
- Centre of the International Cooperation for Computerization (CICC)
- Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS)
- IEEE Computer Society (IEEE CS)
- International Federation for Information Processors (IFIP)
- Indian Computer Society (ICS)
- Malaysia Computer Society (MCS)
- Pakistan Computer Society (PCS)
- Philippines Computer Society (PCS)
- Singapore Computer Society (SCS)
- South East Asia Regional Computer Confederation (SEARCC)
- South Pacific Computer Society (SPACS)
- Sri Lanka Computer Society (SLCS)