

ASMA Victoria has had two public meetings:

* Inaugural Meeting on 25/5/90 at the State Bank Theatre.
The presentation was by Dr Ross Jeffery, Professor of Information Systems at the University of NSW, and Chairman of ASMA. It was entitled "Software Measurement: an Australian Perspective".

* 25/7/90 at the Rialto Theatre.
The presentation was entitled "Estimating on both sides of the Yarra: Issues and Techniques" and was shared by Mr Phil Hain from DMR, Mr John Holt from the National Australia Bank and Mt Terry Wright from the Attorney's General Department.

Copies of the above presentations may be obtained by contacting Phil Hain on (03) 612 1666 and leaving details with the Receptionist.

All enquiries regarding the Victorian Chapter are to be directed to:

Phil Haine
1 Southeast Blvd, Level 8,
Riverside Quay,
South Melbourne, Victoria, 3205

Tel: (03) 612 1666

A U S T R A L I A N
S O F T W A R E M E T R I C S A S S O C I A T I O N
N E W S L E T T E R N U M B E R T H R E E

Section 1: NSW

Section 2: Victoria

A joint publication

by

ASMA and ASMA (Victoria)

July, 1990

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EDITORIAL

Membership in both states is continuing to grow, although somewhat more slowly than earlier on. NSW now has a mailing list of close to 80 members.

A special thanks to Mr Terry Rogers from IBM for his address last meeting in Sydney. A summary is reprinted later in the Newsletter.

This month's meeting in Sydney will be a special one - a Panel Session in which members' questions will be discussed by an experienced panel. If you have something to say about the topics or simply want to listen, make a point of coming along to the August Meeting.

The Victorian Chapter of ASMA has gained momentum very quickly and have produced a Metrics Directory. Your copy is enclosed.

This edition is the first joint newsletter of NSW and Victoria. We welcome Victoria's contributions and look forward to an increased exchange between the two states.

AFFILIATIONS

ACS

ASMA is now affiliated with the Australian Computer Society (ACS) as a Special Interest Group (SIG). This means we can avail ourselves of their facilities which include access to publicity in their publications, use of their meeting rooms for small gatherings and free secretarial services.

We are also considering the ACS as the point of contact for sending of papers from previous meetings.

IFPUG

Affiliation with the International Function Point User Group (IFPUG) has now been approved in principle by both ASMA and IFPUG. Membership will entitle us to access to IFPUG standards and other publications and special member rates at IFPUG conferences.

AUGUST'S MEETING

The August meeting will be a PANEL NIGHT.

The following four questions will be discussed:

1. How do you ensure the consistency of Function Points?
2. Is the original Albrecht method still valid or should we use alternatives like Feayre Points and IFPUG Version 3?
3. What metrics are appropriate for establishing a quality plan and what metric goals should be set?
4. How do you overcome resistance to the use of metrics?

The panel will lead the discussion on each question and then invite comment from members.

If you would like to contribute to the discussion then make a point of coming.

If you want to listen to the discussion and expand your knowledge, then you should definitely come the August meeting.

Tuesday, 14th August, 1990; Water Board.

HANDOUTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

These are available from Cathy, Fax (02) 662 4061

JUNE'S PRESENTATION

The featured speaker for the June meeting was Mr Terry Rogers, Information Systems Manager, IBM (Cumberland Forest).

The theme of his presentation was "The Use of Metrics to Improve Performance" and was based on the experience of his organisation over the past few years in operating, and deriving benefit from, measurement programs.

Terry first dealt with the matter of the performance evaluation and counselling of individuals. This is a keystone in the performance improvement program. It consists of regularly rating each employee on a scale of one to five on a variety of factors related to that employee's Job Goals. It is, therefore, a mechanism for measuring the individual's performance that introduces an element of objectivity into the assessment. As such, it has a high level of employee acceptance and can be used to target areas requiring improvement.

Next, Terry covered the area of Project Status reporting. This covered the conventional areas of schedule, resource approvals, progress against plan, current estimates and resources used to date.

Terry then dealt with further performance indices that give a more complete picture of the organisation.

Examples of these indices are:

- Number of users served, number satisfied.
- Benefits gained from business cases.
- Costs approved in business cases.
- Function points delivered.
- Percentage of commitments met.
- Total function points installed.
- Effort to support the installed base.
- Productivity in terms of function points per work month.

Finally, Terry discussed Quality Metrics. Production incidents are lodged automatically and presented to top management graphically grouped by quarters. Any increase in incidents results in explanations being required and corrective action being taken. He briefly touched on the practice of collecting defect statistics during system development so that the effectiveness of the development process in delivering a product of high quality could be determined.

Mike Berry

WORKING GROUP NEWS

ESTIMATING GROUP

Chairman - Mr Terry Lynch, Phone: 284 7329
Fax: 284 7203

STANDARDS GROUP

Chairman - Mr Hugo Rehesaar, Phone: 268 6167
Fax: 268 8094

A survey was sent to some 150 companies in NSW and ACT. Response has been slower than expected however initial analysis of the early responses is encouraging. Preliminary findings will be presented at the August General Meeting.

DATA COLLECTION GROUP

Chairman - Dr Graham Low, Phone: 697 4638
Fax: 662 4061

The history database questionnaire is in its last stages of completion and its forwarding to organisations is imminent.

VICTORIAN CHAPTER OF ASMA

Represented Organisations as at 31/7/90

Alcoa of Australia
Ansett Technologies
ANZ Bank
Attorney's General Department
Australian Computer Security
Australian Wool Corporation
Bellamy Miller & Monypenny
BP Australia
Coles Myer
Colonial Mutual
Dept of Conservation and Environment
Harris and Sutherland
Infact
Mercedes-Benz
Ministry of Education
Myer Stores Ltd
National Australia Bank
National Mutual
NEC Australia Pty Ltd
Nissan
Norwich Union Life
Rhetec Pty Ltd
RML Services Pty Ltd
South East Old Electricity Board (SEQEB)
Thomas Nelson Australia
Thomsett Education Network
Telecom

OFFICE BEARERS - NSW

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Mike Berry 255 5632 255 5640

Newsletter Editor

Hugo Rehesaar

ASMA Victoria was formed in April of this year and presently has some 30 Corporate and Personal members. This shows a positive response to the need for a solutions-oriented group focussing on Software Measurement in the workplace.

In June, a Steering Committee was formed to handle the administrative side of the Association and to establish a direction for the next 12-18 months. Issues presently being tackled include:

* Formation of Special Interest Groups to examine such things as:

- Function Point Standards.
 - Interpretation of IFFUG standards
 - Liaison and resolution of issues.
- What is Productivity?
 - Evaluation of measures in use.
 - Publication of findings.
- Time/Effort recording.
 - What is a day?
 - Guidelines for recording time
 - Case studies

* Programme of public meetings and the inclusion of deliverables from the Special Interest Groups.

* Next issue of the ASMA Directory and establishment of a library service to supply copies of the Directory reference material.

* Incorporation versus other options such as becoming an ACS SIG.