

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 O N E

WELCOME to the first ASMA Newsletter.

If the speed with which ASMA has gained momentum is any indication then the 1990's will be the DECADE OF THE METRIC!!!

A copy of a feature article in Computing Australia on the February meeting is attached for those who missed it.

We are only 2 meeting old and already we have not 1, not 2, but 3 Working Groups organised and working hard at standardising metrics, gathering data and analysing tools.

This is what ASMA is all about.

Members working together to further the cause of SOFTWARE METRICS, to increase the general knowledge of and utilisation of METRICS in all parts of the computer industry.

ASMA provides a forum for all computer professionals to share in their common belief that to not only survive but to prosper, we need to not only know more about METRICS but also to use more METRICS.

If you are already using METRICS or are just starting, or would like to start, ASMA is the association for you. Meet and talk with like minded people in a professional yet friendly atmosphere. Listen to experts in the field explain their failures (not many) and successes (too many to mention), their problems (easily solved by applications of METRICS) and their solutions (METRICS, of course).

If you have not yet joined, then now is the time.
Only \$25 for personal membership and \$125 for corporate.

Note: If you do not join by the end of April, you will not receive any further copies of the Newsletter (yes, it will get better) nor notices of further meetings. SO JOIN NOW!!!

The last meeting (13th February) featured 2 excellent presentations.

Brief summaries are included here.

If you are a (financial) member and were not able to attend that meeting, but would like copies of the overheads of the presentation, write to Hugo Rehesaar, the ASMA secretary, stating which one(s) you would like.

SYD FINLAY from the Commonwealth Bank started off the evening with a very information presentation of a Plan for Measurement. He focused on the Why, What and How of measurement.

He proposed a number of areas which could be measured to obtain beneficial information. These included Productivity, Quality, Deliverable Performance, Resource Allocation, and Defect Analysis.

Syd concluded by highlighting the methods and benefits of effective reporting.

MIKE BERRY from QANTEK followed with a very interesting discussion of the implementation of a Measurement Program. He covered the factors that might affect the implementation and illustrated those factors by reference to the experience of QANTEK in implementing its measurement program. Mike made the point that implementing a Measurement System had much in common with implementing a Management Information System for a Client and should be treated with similar care.

Mike made 3 main recommendations:

1. Develop the Measurement System with a fully resourced project team, using standard methodologies and tools.
2. Promote Measurement throughout the organisation both top-down through a sponsoring executive but also bottom-up through key technical staff.
3. Be prepared to educate Management in order to harvest the benefits of the Measurement System.

Included in the next Newsletter (which will be sent to members only) will be a list of financial members. This is to assist members in contacting other members and promoting communications amongst SOFTWARE METRICS users.