

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 W O

WELCOME to the second ASMA Newsletter.

Membership and interest in ASMA has grown considerably since the last Newsletter (Number 1).

We now have about 18 corporate members plus 20 personal members. The number is expected to grow as more people become aware of the Association through the efforts of our Working Groups.

In the last Newsletter, I promised a list of members. Since we are getting new members each week, the list would be out of date before you get it. It is also about 10 pages long! So instead, on the next page is a list of organisations which are represented, either through personal or corporate memberships. If you want to know the name of the contact in an organisation just phone or fax either Hugo or Amanda.

To remind you, the ASMA office bearers are:

Ross Jeffery	Chairman	Ph 697 4413	Fax 662 4061
Hugo Rehenaar	Secretary	268 6167	268 8094
Amanda Hawkins	Treasurer	257 5454	257 7886
Mike Berry	Program Director	255 5632	255 5640

A P O L O G Y

Your humble scribe begs the forgiveness of all those members who so carefully read the address of the April meeting, and ended up somewhere in the Rocks. The instructions this time are more detailed and thus there is no mistake.

Represented Organisations as at 21/5/90

Advance Bank Australia Ltd  
A.M.P.  
Austrade EFIC  
Australian Taxation Office  
AVCO Financial Services  
Berger Software  
Bergman Voysey and Associates  
Bonsip Ltd  
C.I.B.  
Commonwealth Bank of Australia  
Commonwealth Dept. of Veterans' Affairs  
Computer Diary  
Computer Power  
Electricity Commission of N.S.W.  
Executive Computing  
Ferntree Computer Services  
Gold Coast C.A.E.  
Hoskyns Group  
James Hardie and Co  
Kimberly-Clark Australia  
Metway Bank (Q'Land)  
NEC/ISA Software Development Centre (Q'land)  
Neutron  
N.R.M.A.  
N.S.W. Dept. of Water Resources  
N.S.W. Water Board  
Quality Systems Australia  
QANTEK  
S.E.C.V. (Vic)  
Stowe Computing  
Synon  
University of N.S.W.  
University of W.A.  
University of Wollongong  
West Australian C.A.E.  
Westpac

SPECIAL REQUEST

To make this Newsletter more interesting, we need YOUR input. Other members would be very interested to hear about your experiences with metrics. It does not need to be a long report, even half a page on some specific point would be most welcomed.

And ... the Newsletter needs a name. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

Send all correspondence to the ASMA Secretary, Hugo Rehenaar, P.O. Box 11, Arncliffe, NSW, 2205.

WORKING GROUP NEWS

ESTIMATING GROUP

The Estimating Group is conducting a survey into estimating techniques and tools. A copy of this survey is part of this mailing.

Your contributions would be greatly appreciated. To this end, would you please complete the survey and either mail or fax it to TERRY LYNCH as detailed on the survey cover sheet, or hand it to Terry at the next meeting (12th June).

It only takes 10 minutes to complete, and the information gathered will greatly benefit us all in the future. So why not help?

STANDARDS GROUP

The Standards Group is about to send out a survey as well. It will ask IS professionals if they are using metrics. This will be followed by a much closer look at specific organisations.

They are targeting software houses and large computer sites, both private and public.

Initial results will hopefully be available for the August meeting.

DATA COLLECTION GROUP

The Data Collection Group has been doing similar work and is getting together a list of organisations who will be able to provide meaningful data.

JUNE'S PRESENTATION

The featured speaker for the June meeting will be Mr Terry Rogers from IBM. The title of his presentation is "Using Metrics to Improve Performance".

Terry will give us an insight into IBM's experiences.

Topics covered will include:

- which metrics
- how to use metrics to your best advantage
- how to report on metrics
- key indicators

IBM is a very strong user of software metrics and was responsible for function point analysis.

APRIL'S PRESENTATION

Graham Low presented a joint paper by himself, Ross Jeffery and N G Lord, entitled "Empirical Validation of Software Cost Models in the Australian MIS Environment".

The abstract is reproduced here.

A number of effort estimation tools are being actively marketed in Australia to aid the management of the software development process. Most of these tools have been developed in the USA and their applicability to Australian conditions has not been validated.

This research investigated the accuracy of 3 proprietary estimation tools actively marketed in Australia (SPOR/20, ESTIMACE, and CLAIR) and COCOMO. The latter is available in the open literature, has many implementations, and is the most cited model.

The results indicate that accuracy of the estimate varies between 44 and 378 percent of the actual with CLAIR being the most accurate. CLAIR was the only tool developed in the Australian environment.

This paper was also presented at the Australian Software Engineering Conference, Sydney, May 22-25, 1990.

AFFILIATIONS

Correspondence has been flying furiously between ASMA and the ACS and IFPUG. Both organisations appear keen to have us join. Stay tuned.

VICTORIAN CHAPTER OF ASMA

Phil Haine (ASMA Executive member and DMR Consultant) and Robyn Lawrie (Ferntree) have been instrumental in the formation of a Victorian Chapter of ASMA. Congratulations!

They are in the process of compiling a directory of metrics services, including distributors software metrics tools, specialist consultants, specialist recruiters and so on.

It will be available to all ASMA members.

This will be well worth the wait!

All enquiries regarding the Victorian Chapter are to be directed to

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

Tel: (03) 612 1665

AUGUST'S MEETING

The August meeting will be a PANEL NIGHT.

This means you have a chance to ask questions from an experienced panel and get the answers.

To be fair to the panel and to get the best answer, you must forward your questions in advance of the meeting.

You may bring your questions to the June meeting, or  
You may fax your questions to Hugo Rehesaar, (02) 268 8094, or  
You may mail your questions to Hugo Rehesaar, ASMA Secretary, P.O. Box 11,  
Arncliffe, NSW, 2205

HANDOUTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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