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## Welcome



Mark Exall

This issue marks the first edition of the Metrics Matters e-Journal under the ASMA/SQA (NSW) banner.

As a result, I have invited the chairman of ASMA / SQA (NSW), Helen Aitken to say a few words. She shares with us what software metrics activities are happening in NSW and give news on matters that affect us on a national scale. Read her musings and get a sense of the direction that metrics in Australia is heading in, as we find out what questions are on Helen's mind. Also, get a feel for the type of person Helen is, as she adds her own personal touch through her conversational style.

In this issue we also take a sneak preview of the Australian Conference on Software Metrics (ACOSM 2005). It is hard to believe that it is that time of year already!

We welcome a submission from Greg Gilbert on the subject of military software within the Australian Department of Defence. He outlines some of the challenges faced within Defence, such as the issues that need to be addressed when considering commercial off the shelf software. Also, he covers the extra demands that are placed on software due to the Defence environment, which add some food for thought. For those interested in other software measurement methodologies, Greg examines Use Case Points (UCP) as an alternative approach to the traditional function point methodology.

Finally, in Last Words, Ted Smillie follows on from his editorial in the August ASMA/SQA NSW newsletter which asked whether the article attacking the reliability of lines of code and function points for software sizing is obscuring more important quality metrics. Here, in "IT Spending – A Necessary Evil?" he goes further and asks whether we are neglecting an even more important measurement – benefits realisation. Thanks Ted for challenging our thinking once again.

I would like to give Sophia Poulos a special thanks for her general guidance and as joint editor. You helped me hang in there!

Feedback on either the contents or the format of the Metrics Matters e-Journal is always welcome. Please email comments to:

[info@asma-sqa-nsw.org.au](mailto:info@asma-sqa-nsw.org.au).

Best Regards,

Mark Exall

Editor/Publisher

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