

Report for SIGCSE, November 2010

Prepared by: Judy Sheard
Chair, Australasian SIGCSE Chapter

Australasian SIGCSE Chapter
Report of activities in 2010

The Australasian SIGCSE Chapter provides a focus for computing education research activities in the Australian and New Zealand regions. The Chapter provides a focus for our community and has encouraged and facilitated collaborations between Australian and New Zealand computing education researchers.

The Australasian SIGCSE Chapter has effectively formalised an executive group which was established nearly 10 years ago to oversee the scheduling and organisation of the Australasian Computing Education (ACE) conferences. At that stage the ACE conference was not established as an annual event and had twice failed to run.

The main events within our community are the Australasian Computing Education conference <http://www.sci.usq.edu.au/conferences/ace2011/> which is held annually in Australia or New Zealand and the annual NACCQ conference held annually in New Zealand <http://www.naccq.ac.nz/>. In addition to these, each year there are various other activities. Some events for this year:

- In February 2010 Tony Clear hosted the 2nd Global Intercultural Collaboration 2010 workshop at Auckland University of Technology <http://online.aut.ac.nz/tony/2009/CGIC.nsf/>. The focus of this event was the exchange of research and experiences in global and cross cultural collaborations. Anders Berglund and Arnold Pears from Uppsala University, Sweden, were keynote speakers at this event.
- Also at Auckland University of Technology in September 2010, a BRACElet workshop was convened by Tony Clear, Jacqueline Whalley and Raymond Lister. This was the final workshop for the BRACElet project which, since 2004, has sustained multinational, multi-institutional research into the learning of programming, providing many insights into novice programmers' code reading and comprehension skills <http://online.aut.ac.nz/Bracelet/repository2.nsf/>. This final BRACElet workshop saw the beginnings of another research project which will investigate the novice to expert programmer continuum "N2expert". Anna Eckerdal from Uppsala University and Raymond Lister were keynote speakers at this workshop.
- In November 2010 Monash University in Melbourne, Australia hosted the Seventh Annual Melbourne Computing Education Conventicle (MCEC2010) <http://www.deakin.edu.au/~seoexp/mcec/2010/index.php>. There were nearly 40 participants mainly from the Melbourne region. Tony Clear travelled from New Zealand to give a keynote address. The Conventicle, an initiative of Raymond Lister from the University of Technology, Sydney, is a one-day conference that aims to support academics who are researching and teaching in the computing disciplines, or who are using computer technology in their teaching. They provide an opportunity for sharing of ideas and innovations; for discussion of research directions; and for development of collaborations. Around 20 Conventicles have been held in three states of Australia over the last decade.

We have a mailing list for the Australasian SIGCSE Chapter and invite people to join if they wish to be informed about events within our community.

<http://listserv.acm.org/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=SIGCSE-AUSTRALIA-MEMBERS>

The current executive of the Australasian SIGCSE Chapter:

Chair: Judy Sheard, Monash University, Australia

Vice Chair: Alison Clear, Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology, New Zealand

Treasurer: Angela Carbone, Monash University, Australia

Secretary: Simon, University of Newcastle, Australia
