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1 ACSW news and info

- ACSW 2016 planning is well underway and the **website** is up at <http://cs.anu.edu.au/conf/acsw2016/>.
- **Student travel funding.** CORE has allocated substantial funds to provide partial travel funding for students who are first author on full accepted papers which they will present. Applications will open after acceptance notices are out. Please encourage students to submit papers.
- ACSW 2017 will be held at Deakin, Geelong, waterfront campus. An excellent bid was put in by Professor John Yearwood, with Professor Wanlei Zhou, Dr Shui Yu, Professor Yang Xiang and Professor Yong Xiang named as other Deakin staff who will be part of the organising committee.
- ACSW 2018: we will soon be asking for expressions of interest. 2018 can be anywhere in Australia other than Victoria. Please think about volunteering.

2 Journal rankings activity

Due to popular demand at the January Profs and HoDs meeting we have been working on support software and process for a journal rankings portal, similar to the CORE conference rankings portal <http://www.core.edu.au/index.php/conference-portal>. This will be initialised with the CS (FOR code 08) contents of the ERA 2010 journal list with rankings, which we have discussed with the ARC. There will be a call for submissions for proposals of additions or changes, in July or August, with an aim to publish the revisions by end of year. As with submissions for conferences, substantial data will be required, and this will then be stored in the portal database for future reference. An announcement will be sent to the CORE mailing lists when submission information is published. Anyone wishing to be notified who is not an Australian or New Zealand academic (and therefore will not be on the CORE members list), can email lin.padgham@rmit.edu.au to be added to a rankings notification list.

3 Opposition Science Policy

ACDICT forwarded a statement from STA (Science and Technology Australia) commenting on the strong STEM focus in the Opposition's budget-in-reply speech. They noted the following key items:

- 3 per cent of GDP committed to research and development by 2030
- 25,000 new STEM teachers
- Extra STEM training for existing teachers to fill skills gaps
- 100,000 STEM graduates to have their HECS-debts wiped out
- \$500 million smart investment scheme, to support start-ups
- Computer coding, 'the language of the modern era', to be taught in all schools

CORE was invited to a pre-launch event in Sydney, of the new Labour Science Network that is an attempt by the Labour Party to actively engage with the science community. Aditya Ghose attended on behalf of CORE. The intent is to engage with scientists in formulating science policy and also to incorporate their input in a more evidence-based approach to policy formulation. Details can be found at www.laborsciencenetwork.com/ If members have any opinions regarding this initiative, please feel free to contact CORE exec. As the initiative develops we will disseminate further information.

4 ACDICT Annual Council Meeting

ACDICT is having their annual meeting on 6-7th July and CORE president or nominee was invited to attend and to make a short presentation in a session on “The ICT HE curriculum: what really matters discipline views and practices in the current environment”. As none of the executive were available, Professor Alan Fekete from University of Sydney has kindly agreed to attend as CORE nominee. If you have opinions on the topic please feel free to email Alan at alan.fekete@sydney.edu.au for his consideration.

5 Good news re I.T. jobs

Some documents have been circulated recently by ACDICT that carry good news for I.T. job seekers. First is the Graduate Outlook 2014 (http://www.graduatecareers.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Graduate_Outlook_2014.pdf) which analyses data on graduate employment programs of participating employers. One key finding was “*Of all participating employers that indicated they had difficulty sourcing enough graduates, 53.5 per cent indicated that they had trouble sourcing Computer Science graduates in 2014.*” The lack of sufficient CS graduates was emphasized several times in the report.

Following this ACDICT has just sent around a new report by the ACS and Deloitte Access Economics launched by Malcolm Turnbull at the National Press Club: <http://www.itwire.com/it-people-news/enterprise-staff/68355-ict-jobs-demand-hits-a-high-note-but-skills-shortages-could-derail-the-boom>. “... *there has been 5% growth in the number of ICT professionals, with an increase to 600,000 ICT workers in 2014, and demand for a further 100,000 workers over the next six years - but despite the demand, the number of graduates with ICT qualifications has declined significantly since the early 2000s.*” Hopefully this will translate into good demand for our I.T. programs!

Another useful document was an April 2015 STEM report put out by PwC Australia (<http://pwc.docalytics.com/v/a-smart-move-pwc-stem-report-april-2015>). This document has a range of useful facts and statistics supporting the importance of STEM.

6 Miscellaneous other items

- The School of Computing, Information, and Mathematical Sciences at the University of the South Pacific has requested to join CORE. The University of the South Pacific is run by 12 pacific countries with headquarters in Fiji. We welcome them to the CORE membership.
- Aditya Ghose is collecting material for popular style news items about Computer Science research, which can be show-cased on the CORE website. If you have something you think could be suitable, please contact Aditya at aditya.ghose@gmail.com.