

DSTC News

The Informal Newsletter of the CRC for Distributed Systems Technology

From the CEO'S Desk

It has been three and a half years since I joined DSTC and in that time we have grown from under 30 full time staff to over 80 with earnings from commercial activities rising from a few dollars to well over \$2M in this financial year. Associated with this growth there have been many challenges and I am grateful for the commitment of everyone to overcome these and make the DSTC the success it is today. An example of this has been Zoran's work with EDOC which is shaping up to be an outstanding success. Zoran is to be congratulated for his untiring efforts. I know he was ably assisted by so many and I thank them for their efforts as well. Another example is the Resource Discovery Unit taking over the operation of the WWW7 web pages when they realised that the appropriate administration of the web pages for the conference was critical to the success of the conference. And finally I would like to especially thank admin support and the Solutions Event Committee for their work over the last few hectic weeks in getting the DSE up and running.

Planning for both DSTC II and the Fifth Year Review has been occupying much of my time over the last three months. The Fifth Year Review will be held on 19 and 20 November. The Chairman of the Review panel is Dr Max Brennan formerly the head of ARC. He is conducting several other reviews of CRC's as well. Further information about the review timetable will become available in the next few weeks. The Research Directions Committee will be establishing a staff reference group so that management can regularly consult on matters relating to DSTC II. We are currently visiting existing and potential partners and further defining the potential research programme.



The efforts by the various members of the integrator team have been particularly helpful in our endeavours to describe the work of the DSTC.

Welcome to new staff Paul Wilson, George Michaelson and welcome back to Ash Roll. A number of other staff have joined us since the last newsletter and I suspect the editors have forced them into revealing some tawdry aspect of their lives (*We try our darndest - Ed*). Welcome to you all as well and thank you for choosing to work long hours on a diet of coca cola, pizza and coffee at DSTC.

Space continues to be a problem for us and whilst the emergence of the new building from its foundations gives us hope we will be a little squeezed over the vacation period whilst the student programme is under way. Thank you for your patience.

Finally on a personal note thanks to all those who have approached me about my former boss Wayne Goss. He is recuperating well and I recently had the opportunity to pass on your best wishes.



From Newton to Eternity

Andy Bond

The stable of Newtons at DSTC HQ has risen dramatically over the last few months with several new Newton 2000's appearing on the desks of the young and upwardly mobile. The population is probably about seven MP2K's now. They are mostly used for scheduling lives but are also being integrated into distributed systems research as mobile assistants. HQ has a restricted wireless infrared network allowing the wOrlds and Reject rooms to access backup and printing. In future we'd hope to see some infrared receptors in the meeting rooms. Students are working to give mobile newtons access to the file system and provide the start of a messaging protocol that will provide a better fit into our distributed infrastructure.

A few managed to catch the inside of one of the new MP2K's recently when I had to make a small fix to newt following an unexpected impact with concrete. Surprisingly the screen

survived and other than a few more scratches, it sported a dislodged board clip and broken screen cover catch. Once the battery and PCMCIA cards are removed, there really isn't a lot to the unit. Four screws on the back hold on a plastic cover which covers the main board. It is very difficult to remove the other half of the body to get access to the screen surround but then this wasn't really needed. There is a cute little daughter board on top of the main board which appears to hold ROM. Seems to be simple and relatively inexpensive to replace. No obvious sign of demountable chips to perform the much needed DRAM heap extensions. The board clip was easily put back in place but the cover catch required extensive yogic manoeuvring which even the renowned hardware enthusiast, David Arnold, didn't relish. Eventually it was slotted back in to place although at times it seemed that the construction of the newton employed a cryptic one-way manufacturing technology. So if you drop your newton and it doesn't shatter immediately, do not be too distraught. There may be ways and means for getting it working.

Now for those of you who have been holding back getting the Newton 2000 or are being tempted by the forces of darkness (the new colour Windows CE machines out there), fear not! Rumours about the release of a Newton 2100 before the end of the year. Mac the Knife (<http://www.zdnet.com/macw>

[eek/mactheknife](http://www.zdnet.com/macw)), the home of rumour and innuendo, foretells the coming of a new Newton which will use the new StrongARM 1100 chip. Supposedly able to drive a 1024x1024 8-bit active-matrix colour display. Oh and Java in it too. Someone close to the new Newton denies using the new chip as sufficient production numbers aren't coming out of digital. So the rumours are getting more frequent but still as unreliable as ever. Combine this with the recent shakeups at Newton Inc. which had a rapid bounce from spun out to spin in, Steve Jobs back at the helm of Apple at least for a while, and the resignation of Newton Inc's CEO from both Newton and anything to do with Apple, then scepticism is probably warranted.

Never mind, Newtons are still the greatest electronic thing to come out since the 555 timer.

The truth about DSTC secondment: a mole's eye view

Stephen Crawley

Once upon a time, about 2 1/2 years ago, Stephen Hood found me wandering around the corridors of DSTO in Salisbury looking more lost than usual.

Since this was an OH&S risk, (I might get run down by a passing tank), I was dispatched to DSTC HQ to

talk to Kerry Raymond (esteemed Architecture Unit Leader) about doing some collaborative research on ... something. I arrived. We talked. Kerry didn't like garbage collection. We talked some more. What about type-checking? Ping!! It turns out, DSTC had a project running in the area of Type Management. That sort of fitted with some work I'd been doing a couple of years earlier.

So I scurried back to Adelaide to build some software for compiling and type-checking DCE interfaces ... to fit into the DSTC's "Type Manager : Next Generation" prototype. The work got done, but was hard to do the integration at a distance.

Stephen Hood had the solution. How would I like to go to Queensland for 6 months? A few weeks later, I arrived in Queensland with my little white car full of my belongings.

DSTC was different. It was very different. People were doing really interesting things. They were keen to know what you did, and happy to talk about what they did. People worked hard. People had fun. People drank lots of coffee. DSTC is a cool place ... even without the summer gales from the airconditioning.

At the end of my first 3 month stint, I was sad to go back to Adelaide. By the end of my second 3 month stint, I was desperate for a ways to stay at DSTC. For lots of reasons.

Then, the DSTC hosted a meeting of the OMG in Brisbane. I didn't realise this at the time, but this was to completely change the direction of our work. Kerry was busy with DSTC's Trader submission, so she sent me to listen in on a meeting about something called the "Meta-Object Facility". There were three or four guys there using lots of strange words that all started with "meta". After a bit, the penny dropped. They were talking about a type manager. Except it was different.

Afterwards, I talked to Kerry. Kerry talked to Melfyn and David B. Next thing I know, DSTC is planning to submit an OMG proposal on the

MOF. Fifteen months, 2 submissions, 4 papers and a few tens of thousands of lines of prototype code later ... we reached the finishing line. On September 24th in Dublin, the OMG Domain

Technical Committee voted to accept the joint Final MOF Submission.

So (I hear you ask) how has my secondment to DSTC helped DSTO? I think that the answer is "in lots of ways":

- The Type Management research we are doing at DSTC, and in particular the MOF work, are going to be of enormous benefit to DSTO in solving Defence's software systems interoperability problems. At least that's what we believe. And we're going to show this in the next few months.
- Having me on the ground at DSTC helps to bridge the communications gap between the two organisations, especially at ground level. [The real battles aren't fought from helicopters :-)]
- And of course, my involvement in the MOF work means that much of DSTC's kudos within OMG rubs off on DSTO.

And I'm thoroughly enjoying the work.



Check it out.....

Mess with your mind.....

The Surrealist Compliment Generator

http://pharmdec.wustl.edu/cgi-bin/jardin_scripts/SCG

Remember this?.....

The Love Calculator

<http://www.xs4all.nl/~kink/love/>

Touring brit-pop boys.....

Blur:

<http://www.blur.co.uk/>

Mmmm chocolate.....

Kinder Surprise:

<http://www.icis.qut.edu.au/~susank/pictures/kinder.html>

Liz & Naomi are in dire need of more groovy sites : please forward urls to us !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



A nice game of FollyWall, or how I learned to stop worrying and love ATM

Bob Brown

It's a fine line from genius to madness. The Video Wall finally pushed me across the line at 11:08am on Wednesday 8th October 1997. I remember it well...



Bob Brown, Michael Olsen & Adam Burns share quality time via the videowall

I was on the phone to Daniel Kirkham at Telstra's Research Laboratories in Melbourne (who is a really nice guy, and very helpful), trying to get the Video Wall working. I was explaining how we had bought a new ATM switch to get things going ASAP, how I had got everything working fine at HQ but how everything had collapsed in a steaming heap when I tried to bring QUT online.

Daniel was explaining ("Hmm...this looks strange...") how 60% of all cells sent out by QUT were being dropped and that he didn't know why but that "this shouldn't be happening..." and that "perhaps the line cards need to be reset?" He was also explaining how he was about to go on holiday and thus if the reset didn't work I would possibly have to wait for "a few days."

Just for good measure Daniel threw in the little fact that perhaps the engineers wouldn't be too prompt in resetting the line card 'cos they were due to have a meeting to decide whether or not to go on strike...

Suddenly it hit me: I felt like Manuel the waiter in Fawley Towers. There I was bumbling along uncomprehendingly from disaster to ever greater disaster, listening to people babble at me in a foreign language: "Well you see, you might try fixing this by applying the shapeovpi attribute to your VPT 4 on your IISP connection. Make sure that you check your CONF UNI and you may as well set your ILMI down-it can't hurt can it! Then we can do a 10-second integration and see what happens...."

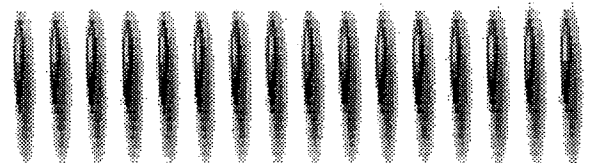
Poor Daniel must have wondered what had happened: I suddenly started giggling at the absurdity of it all and just couldn't stop. I was completely out of control. I was thinking: "What are the chances of all these things happening together? No one else had any troubles with their Video Walls so WHY ME? What the hell is an ILMI and why shouldn't it be up? How come the engineers are deciding to strike now-don't they know I've got a Video Wall to get going?" and so on...

On and on I went, occasionally pausing for breath and trying to apologise for my rather strange behaviour. It took about five minutes for the giggling fit to subside and for my face to resume its natural colour from the blue tint it had taken on.

Ahh the indignity of it all, but at least DB didn't come along to slap me on the head!

Daniel was really very understanding - it occurred to me that he has had practice at handling people finally loosing it via telephone. Perhaps this is required TRL staff training ("Today you will learn what to do when a customer becomes deranged while working on your research project...") or perhaps it just comes from his long association with the world of ATM networking and the people who inhabit that world.

So, when The Wall transforms your working life-as surely it must-remember the mental anguish it has cost me. Contributions to my rehabilitation fund are being gratefully accepted.



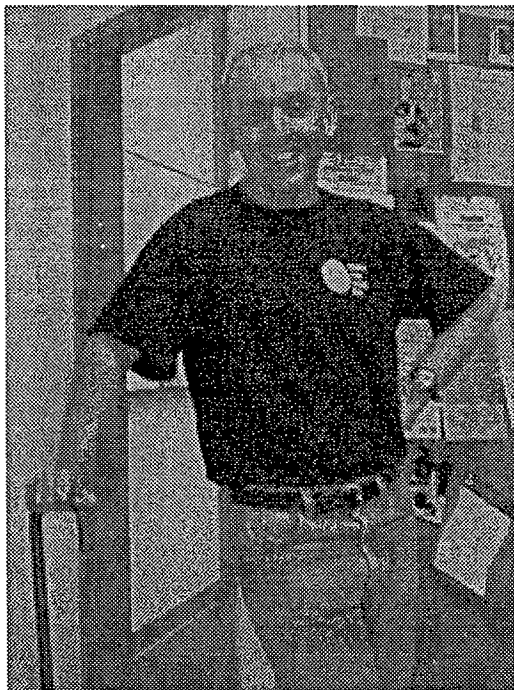
DSTC Photo Album



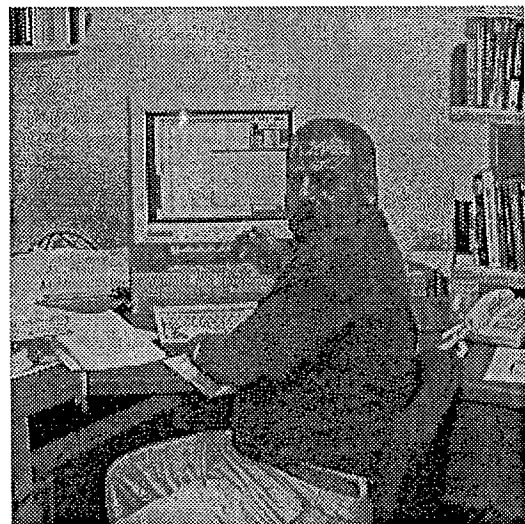
Melfyn Lloyd proudly tells Peter Linington he's now an Australian citizen.....unfortunately he's not yet mastered the art map reading



Liz urges the DSE Organising Committee to shoot for the stars



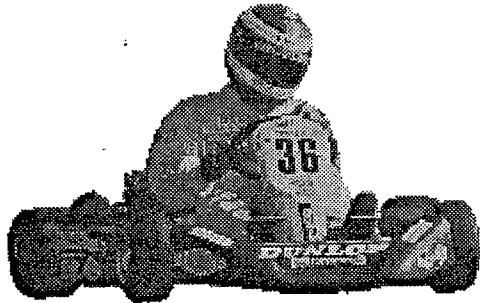
A classic Timbomb moment



A rare glimpse of the elusive Michi in his natural habitat

Go-Karting

Scott Harris



Willowbank kart track was the destination for some intrepid DSTC employees who seemed hellbent on living out their fantasies as race drivers. The day was to provide its fair share of amusement, pain and embarrassment – all the ingredients of any good day out.

Comments heard before taking to the track :

- “@#%*!! They go alright, don't they!”
- “I want one. Lots.”
- “I've just got here and I want to come again already”
- “I wonder if DB will let me get one as part of my salary package?”

On the first of the two 15-minute sessions, it was time to get used to the karts and the track, since no-one had driven at lakeside before. A couple of people who shall remain nameless (their identity is withheld by request) found that crashing into each other is not a great way to get the owners on-side, especially when you're driving their newest karts. Enough said.

Comments heard mid-morning :

- “That mongrel ran straight into me!”
- “It was his fault, not mine!”
- “Are wheels supposed to fly off like that?”
- “Just like Formula 1!”

After a lecture from a none-too-pleased owner about how the karts weren't dodgems (which disappointed some attendees), and how if anyone

so much as touched the dirt they would be kicked off, it was time to take to the track again. This session saw a few spinouts, but nothing as major as the first. Had the pundits become more used to the track or the cars? Were they more careful? Were they just lucky? Who knows. They seemed to have fun, though.

Comments heard later that day and into the next few :

- “Ouch. My arms/legs/shoulders/neck/body/*insert favourite body part here* aches”
- “I hurt, Mum”
- “What a buzz!”
- “So, are you guys free next weekend?”

They're a weird mob, those speed freaks. Still, it's hard to beat the adrenaline rush gained from flinging a flimsy kart around a tight track at 70+ kilometres an hour with your rear end an inch or so from the ground. Some people may call it madness, but everyone there agreed it was a great time.



DSTC Tennis Team

Robin Wolff

Tennis Anyone? DSTC staff have been playing on UQ campus tennis courts several afternoons per week. Great effort is expended by all.....

Margaret and Bob are certainly the most skilled players, with Bartek a serious contender...Jill and I have the most laughs with Scott and Melfyn first-rate net players. Our Research Director has recently been spied purchasing state of the art equipment, so he will soon be a real threat to the lead players.

Do subscribe to "tennis" if you would like to join in the fun.

Robin



1997/98 Student Vacation Projects

Alan Underwood

This programme is aimed at students intending to pursue higher degrees in relevant areas of distributed systems technology. Selected students are given the opportunity of working for 8-12 weeks over the November-January break on projects proposed and supervised by the various research units in the DSTC as well as DSTC participants. This is an activity that has a high priority within the Education Unit and the increased student demand over the previous year reflected in particular the value of building a database of interested students as an outcome of the student information sessions held in the past two years at each of the Brisbane based participating universities. It is significant that a number of students who have joined the vacation programme in the past have gone on to work for the DSTC.

Responses to this year's round of Vacation Projects from both potential students and DSTC Supervisors has been outstanding. At the cut-off for applications we had received 35 student applications and 45 potential DSTC projects. This compares with the previous year when we attracted 19 student applications and 33 DSTC projects. It is

interesting to note the predominance of applications from overseas students this year.

From past experience the dropout rate of students for the vacation projects is very high. Reasons include other offers of research work, employment opportunities, as well as overseas students electing to return home. Last year we finished up with only eight of the students placed in projects which spanned all units of the DSTC. The CEO has committed to funding twenty projects this year so it is hoped that we can spend the allocated budget.

DITLOS

Tim Redhead & Dean Povey

After many late nights of preparation, we arrived in Sydney for the first of our Day In The Life Of Security (DITLOS) presentations. We spent the day in various meetings which Kim Dinh had kindly organised for us, and spent the night watching our PowerPoint slides shining on the hotel-room wall while we put the finishing touches on our presentation.

We rose early...very early, and Tim proceeded to run around the hotel attempting to coerce/bully the hotel staff into giving him access to a printer for his presentation notes. Not a pretty sight before breakfast!

We got the ball rolling around 8:30am and in general, it all went quite well; Tim was chastised for his "line-dancing" method of presentation, and Dean was accused of an unnatural fixation with the projector screen! All this AND public speaking skills! Legendary!!

At the end of it all, the hotel offered us 50 odd drink vouchers for the seminar attendees, of which about 10 ended up being used for the intended purpose... the vouchers, not the attendees... Needless to say that a period of joyous merriment ensued, and many a Guinness and Coopers was drunk by all... especially <censored>.

Melbourne welcomed us with sunny (although a little chilly) weather, and we decided to enjoy a little of its oft-touted multi-cultural lunch cuisine by munching a greasy hamburger and chips in a park off Lygon street. After doing some more slide-revisions we headed next door to CSIRO where Andrew kindly let us print off some new slide notes for the seminar... This presentation has had more facelifts than Joan Collins... but of course, Joan didn't get to spend the night with Dean and Tim at the Melbourne Ridges!

The next day we rose refreshed and renewed. Tim said he felt like a new man, so Dean said it seemed like a good time to leave for breakfast. The Melbourne presentation was a triumph! Never before had two people been so witty, so entertaining, so informative... Well okay,

we were pretty pleased that no one actually fell asleep, but then that may have been due to the air conditioner's persistent rumblings as it threatened to tear itself from its roof mountings and crush the wary audience below. Alas, there were no free drink vouchers afterwards (perhaps someone from Sydney called and warned them we were coming) but the soggy lunchtime sandwiches were starting to ferment so all was not lost.

All in all, it was an interesting experience, which we hope we don't have to do again for a very, very long time.



New Staff

Michelle Eberhard

I was born in Adelaide, South Australia and lived for ten years in a small town in the Barossa Valley, called Gumeracha, and from there spent my teenage years in Hobart, Tasmania. After five years, we (my family and I) moved to Maleny, on the Sunshine Coast, where I finished school. I then left home (for the weekdays!) and came to live in the big city and attended Griffith University. As of November of last year, I finished an Honours year, in Science, Technology and Society and focusing on science, ethics and philosophy. My thesis title was Values and Medical Technology: An examination of the prospects of Organ Transplantation in a Multicultural Society.

My degree was a Bachelor of Science with Media, in which

I also completed a video production major. I was either a producer or production manager and editor of all our group's video productions.

Well, my hobbies are: reading (I am an avid reader, consuming a variety and quantity of reading material), abseiling (which unfortunately I haven't done in ages - but love), cooking, sewing (as people here have asked me "Is that one of yours?!"), and craft (a passion I get from my mum), I also have a passion for motorbikes (would you believe).

I come from a tight knit family of a mum (housewife but now working) and a dad (Baptist Minister) and two younger, but unfortunately taller, brothers. I did have a goldfish but he died. That's my life.

See ya! - Michelle



Walter Leung

I'm Walter Leung, the new Software Engineer in RDU. I came from Hong Kong two years ago with my family, i.e. my wife and my son. During the past one and a half years, I had two achievements, obtaining a Master degree in Information Technology at QUT, and more importantly, having a second child (a girl).

This is my first job in Australia and I enjoy it very much. I am working on the ZedWeb project and is going to port HotOIL to JAVA. Everything's new and challenging to me, and I'm sure that I will learn lots of things here.



Ted McFadden

Here:

I am working for BusDev, currently on the Trader.

Background:

I have a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from M.I.T. where my thesis was on computer controlled welding. Since then I have spent several years in the semiconductor field developing robotic controller and lithography analysis software.

More recently I've worked on a business software framework that included visual editors for program flow and screen design along with automated SQL generation. When we arrived in Australia last year I ended up in the casino business working on a slot machine monitoring system.

Home, Hobbies, etc.:

Lets see... I'm a recovering sushi addict, play the accordion and the guitar (sort of), practice White Crane Silat (an Indonesian martial art), like a good pint of stout and single malt scotch.

My wife, Virginia Slaughter, is a lecturer in the Psychology department here at UQ. We have a 2 and 1/2 year old daughter, Katie, and another baby due in late March.



Nick Moss

Hello all. I joined DST Consulting in July, having escaped from the fun world that is the public service.

I was born a long time ago in a place some call Sydney. Since moving to Queensland in 1990, I have heard other more

interesting, although not able to be published, names for the place. My interests include:

music - bass playing; movies; and, golf. Oh well, back to the boring bits.

After finishing high school, like most of us, I had not idea what to do, so I went to university. In 1984, I graduated from Macquarie University with a B.Sc., majoring in statistics, with a minor in computing. Statistics I hear - the subject everyone hates. But wait, there's more and it even gets better. In 1991, I graduated again from Macquarie with a Master of Applied Statistics degree (M.App.Stat.).

Work-wise, I started off as a research assistance and part time tutor in the Macquarie's Statistics Discipline. 1985 was the critical point in my career, for want of a better word. After nearly 10 years on the local music circuit, culminating in a failed record deal, I "bit the bullet" and accepted a tutorship in the Statistics Discipline. Over the next 5-6 years, I tutored or lectured nearly every course within the Discipline. In 1986, along with a few colleagues, we formed the Statistical Computing Laboratory Pty Ltd, providing statistical and computing consulting services to a number of clients.

In January 1990, I married Sara. Sara grew up in England and her family emigrated to the Gold Coast in 1979 and hence my Queensland connection. Sara and I met at Macquarie in 1985 where she was doing a B.A. Shortly after we were married, Sara was diagnosed with Multiple

Sclerosis (MS) and hence the move to Queensland, to be closer to her family.

In August 1990, I was offered some teaching at QUT and spent a semester tutoring a 2nd year business statistics course. Also in August 1990, I was offered an information management job within Queensland Health (QH) and what followed was nearly seven years of fun, participating in five restructures and moving offices ten times. By the way, along the way I was responsible for QH's Telecommunications Strategy and more recently, QH's IT&T Security Policy and Procedures.

And now, here I am. Working in DST consulting, concentrating on developing business opportunities in the Internet and Security arenas. The rest they say, is "the future".

Lynda Pashley

Hiya!

You've all passed my desk, dropped in for a chat or heaped my In-Tray with reams of paper work. And some of you have even taken to arranging my prized Yowie collection into strange and wonderful scenarios.

I am Lynda, Administration Officer, answerer of calls, doer of deeds, drinker of coffee, but I don't ride a pushbike. I have been working at DSTC for 2 months or so and have been learning the ropes from my trusty partner-in-crime, Michelle. I've finally learnt

my way around the maze here and I'm pretty confident that I know everyone's name/face, but if I happen to give you a peculiar look, please come and say hi and tell me who you are!

Now, a little bit about me...I'm 26 years old, born and raised in Gladstone. I escaped, went off to university and was promptly posted to Biloela where I began my career as a teacher... I am an ex-teacher, ex-kitchenhand, ex-mosaic tiler, ex-paver and am enjoying the new challenges of being an AO at DSTC (working for DB at HQ doing p/o's on my pc...)

I'm passionate about art and am currently putting together an exhibition of chalk pastel drawings. I also enjoy playing with my airbrush when I get a chance and sculpting's pretty fun too. When I'm not playing in my studio, I'm usually out photographing whatever will stand still long enough to be snapped. And, other than that, I'm pretty obsessed with motorcycles and plan to own a shiny, new one (instead of the current dented, old one) within the next 12 months!

Well, that's the condensed biography! If you happen to be passing by, feel free to come and have a coffee, a chocky and a chat. Michelle and I always welcome a friendly visit!

Lynda

Zhimin Zhan

My name is Zhimin Zhan, a new software Engineer in Resource Discovery Unit, working on the MetaWeb project. I am privileged to be

back to DSTC since worked here as a summer vacation student for two months last year.

In my spare time, I like listening to music at high volume and playing soccer, table tennis and computer RPG games.

Travel Report

Keith Duddy

After a week's overlap in the UK with Tim's trip to Lancaster, which we spent mostly visiting friends, I headed off to Dublin for an OMG meeting.

This was the first meeting that I'd attended with Kerry, so that was fun, except that we didn't see too much of each other because I had evening meetings to thrash out the Notification Service. Many representatives of the 14 other companies with whom we're writing a merged Notification Service submission were there to argue our way through hundreds of lines of IDL. However, the process seemed to stall on one or two technically uninteresting issues, so we didn't progress very far, despite using up three of our evenings rather than going out to experience the delights of Dublin.

Other highlights were the presentation of the JFLOW Workflow submission, which the DDU assisted IBM and other companies in writing. The IBM presenter acknowledged their work in his presentation. But the most exciting thing was the acceptance of the Meta Object

Facility (MOF) which Kerry, Stephen C and Simon Mc have put so much work into over almost a year. Now, at last, the OMG can have type management and meta-data everywhere. I presented Michi & Michael N's proposal for shorter string Object References to a very receptive ORB task force, and it looks like we'll have support to make it part of a CORBA revision.

I did manage to get in some fun. Saturday started with a quick taxi ride from the airport and directly after checking in I found myself in the snug in a local pub with some of my Iona (and ex-Iona) buddies. Soon half the OMG had found us, so we retired to Stephen's cottage in Dun Laoghaire (pronounced Dunleary) for some local fish & chips and a couple of Jaimesons & Red. The main reception on Wednesday night was in a Martello Tower built to defend against Napoleon, which had about 200 more people in it than it could really handle. So eventually, after getting a pint from the bar, I retired to talk to some people "on the beach" (read mudflats) until the crowds had subsided a bit. Iona had learned the lessons of driving people out to the middle of nowhere from previous OMG meetings, and saved the late finishers a taxi fare by organising busses until 2am! Finally, I joined a notorious Nortel dance club fiend at U2's club, The Kitchen, on Friday night for a bit of a boogie to round off the week.

1997 Spring School

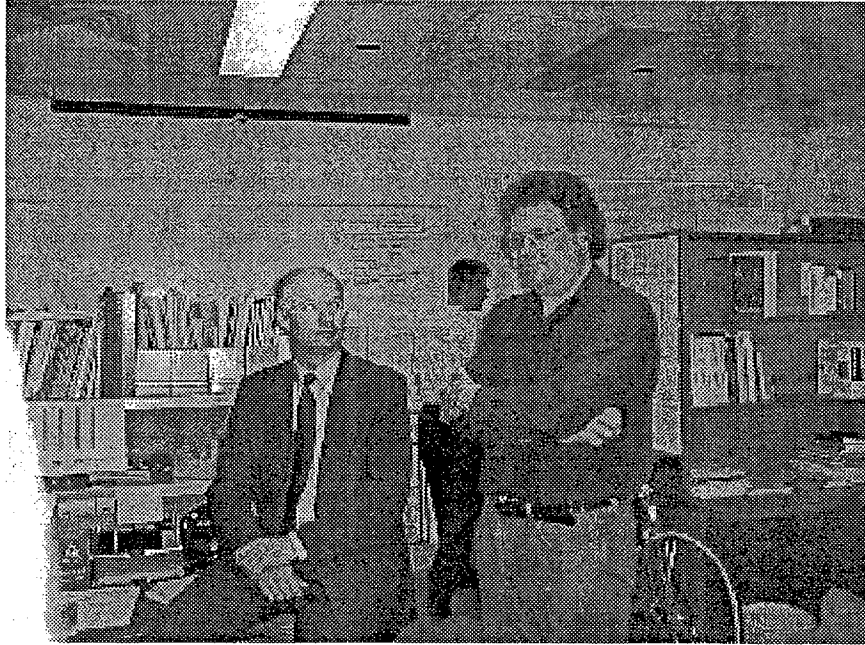
Alan Underwood

In his indomitable style David Barbagallo suggested that the Education Unit run a Spring School in 1997. This strongly asserted "suggestion" took place some three weeks before the university break when such a school could be run.

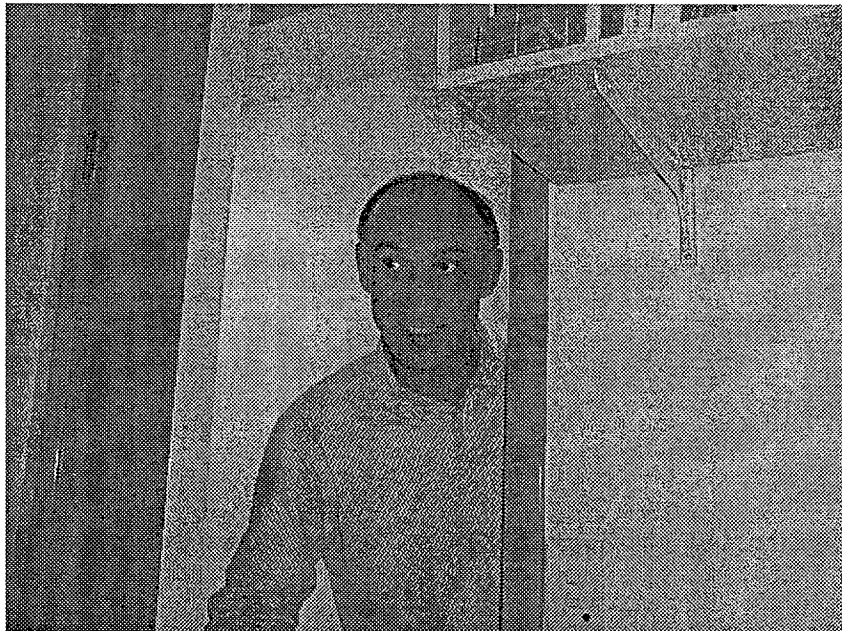
Always willing to accept a challenge we set about designing a program, with the assistance of the Business Development Unit, which would be of interest to students. Having defined a likely program and organised the logistic requirements (NOT a trivial task identifying content, presenters, and venues) we then surveyed our student database, created as an outcome of information sessions, and had instant responses guaranteeing the viability of proceeding with the course.

Tucked away in my QUT ivory tower it was a little disconcerting on finalising the arranged DSTC speakers to find that most were going to be absent for a variety of reasons during the planned course period and also that nobody had been delegated to present the three day Java component of the course. At this stage there were about three days to go before the course was to be presented. It was even more disconcerting to find out that the CEO had indicated to everyone except myself that the School was cancelled! What, me worry?

Caption Competition - July 1997



Winning Caption: *Melfyn, are you **sure** the Trader will get me more votes in Oxley?*
- Jason Andrade



Winning Caption: *Hello? Anyone home? Avon calling!*
- Ralf Muhlberger

Caption Competition - October 1997



Caption:

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Caption:

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Winners will be announced next issue