Australian Computer Society (ACS) – Governance

Dereliction of duty and the urgent need for reform

We believe that the Management Committee of the Australian Computer Society (ACS) has failed in its responsibility to the Society's members:

- to ensure the Society conducts its affairs in a fit and proper manner.

- to act transparently and to respond to reasonable questions from Members.

In addition, over the past seven years, the Management Committee has presided over:

- a decline in voting members by more than half.

- a decline in professional members by two-thirds.

- a diversion from its primary activity of enhancing the profession to one of assessing the skills of potential immigrants on behalf of the Federal Government.

- a further diversification into commercial activities of no direct relevance to Members.

Commentary is available at:
http://philipson.info/acs/ and https://www.innovationaus.com/?s=acs

The failure to ensure the Society conducts its affairs in a fit and proper manner is in itself ample reason for the members of the Management Committee to resign, or justification for the Congress to dismiss them, allowing the election of replacements.

The implications of the court's findings must also be taken into account. In October 2019 a Special General Meeting was convened to vote on a special resolution proposed by the Management Committee to restructure the ACS from an incorporated association to a Company Limited by Guarantee. The restructuring proposal was passed by a single vote.

This outcome was challenged in the Federal Court, citing voting irregularities and a failure to properly inform Members of the vote. In the Federal Court, Justice Michael Wigney declared that the meeting and the special resolution were invalid. He issued a scathing assessment of the Management Committee's handling of the meeting and ACS was ordered to pay costs. Details of the proceedings and the judgement can be found at https://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/cases/cth/FCA/2019/2175.html

In light of the failure of the Management Committee to properly discharge its responsibility to ensure acceptable governance of the affairs of the Society, we call upon Congress:

- **to dismiss the members of the Management Committee who have been responsible for the plight that the Society is now in.**

- **to elect replacement members of the Management Committee who are committed to reviving appropriate governance of our professional society.**

List of Signatories
The captions show each person's highest Professional Grade achieved, and primary contributions to the professional Society and/or the basis of their IT industry standing

David Abramson FACS FACM FIEEE FTSE
Professor of Computer Science, Pearcey Medal

Chris Barter FACS FIEAust
Professor of Computer Science, IT Innovator

David Bennett FACS
Board chair, Branch Vice-chair, Fellows Committee Chair

Graeme Bond FACS
IT and telecommunications project management consultancy

Michael Edward Bowern FACS
Founder member, Council, Branch Chair, ELSIC Chair, Ethics Committee

Jack Burton FACS
Council, Management Committee, Congress, Branch Chair

William Caelli AO FACS Fellow ISC2 Hon CISM
Founding Member, Branch Chair, Chapter Chair, Pearcey Medal

Paul Campbell FACS
Congress, Governance Review Committee, Branch Secretary

Gregory J Clark AC FTSE FAPS
IT Research, Consultancy and Directorships, Pearcey Fellow

Roger Clarke FACS
Council, ELSIC Chair

Penny Collings FACS
IT researcher and practitioner, Accreditation Committee

Rob Cook FACS
IT entrepreneur, CEO, director

Richard Cousins FAICD
Company Director, IT Entrepreneur, Founding Chairman AIIA

Reg Coutts FACS
Telecomms Professor, President, TelSoc (sometime ACS affiliate), Pearcey Hall of Fame

Jo Dalvean MACS Snr CP
Management Committee, Congress, Branch Vice-Chair

Rod Dilnutt FACS FBCS CP
Congress, Board Director, Branch Vice-Chair

Jenny Edwards FACS
Australian Learning and Teaching Fellow, Accreditation Case Manager

Tony Errington FACS CP
Congress, Board Director, Branch Chair

Robert Estherby MACS
Congress, National Young IT Convener, Branch Committee

Brian Finn AO FACS FIE(Aust) FTSE FAICD
IBM CEO, Telstra Director, Chairman NSTC, Chairman ANTA

Wayne Fitzsimmons OAM FACS FIEAust
ICT Entrepreneur, Chair Pearcey Foundation

Simon Foster MACS Snr CP
Branch Treasurer, Branch Startup & Small Business SIG Convenor

Vance Gledhill AM FACS
Faculty Dean, Microsoft Institute

Ashley Goldsworthy AO OBE KSS KM FACS HLM FTSE FCIE FAICD FIML FCPA FCA
Founder member, President x2, CEO, Branch Chair x2, ELSIC Chair, Pearcey Hall of Fame

Jason Goodridge FIML MACS Snr CP
Chief Judge ACS Digital Disruptor Awards, Congress, Board, Branch Chair

John Graham FACS CP
Congress, Branch Secretary, ISO Governance Standard Editor

Graham Greenleaf AM FACS FAAL
Leading IT Law researcher, co-founder of AustLII

Shirley Gregor AO FACS
IT practice and research, Professional Standards Board Director

Jacky Hartnett FACS
Management Committee, Congress, Branch Chair

Malcolm Hill FACS CP
Branch Treasurer

Brand Hoff AM FACS FAICD
IT Entrepreneur, Pearcey Medal

Richard G Hogg MACS Snr HLM
President, Management Committee, Branch Chair

Julie James FACS
Foundation member, IT research and practice, Software Industry Committee

Christopher William Johnson MACS CP
Congress, Branch Committee, Accreditation Case Manager

Peter Kalkman FACS
Management Committee, Congress, Branch Chair, Fellows Committee

Adrian Wayne Knack FACS HLM
Council Member, Board Director, Branch Chair

Jan Kornweibel FACS CP HLM
Foundation Member, First female W.A. Branch Chair, Churchill Fellow 1981

Martin Lack FACS
IT Conferences, Change Management Consultancy

Vladas Leonas FACS FIEAust
Management Committee, Congress, Branch Chair

Frank Liebeskind FACS FCPA
Senior Management & IT Advisory Board Roles

David Lindley FACS
ACS Academic Principal and Chief Examiner

Bruce Linn AM FACS FAICD
CEO roles in IT, Company Director

Graham Low FACS
Information Systems research, Standards and Accreditation

Geoff McClelland MACS Snr FAICD
Co-Founder & Director Centre For Open Systems

Philip McCrea FACS FIE(Aust)
IT CEO and company director, Pearcey Committee

Craig McDonald FACS ALIA
Accreditation Chair, Ethics Committee, Branch Committee

Helen Elizabeth McHugh MACS Snr CP
Congress, ACS Women National and State Boards, Branch Vice-Chair

Ashley Maher MACS CP
Branch Committee, Chapter Chair

Jeff Mitchell MACS Snr CP
Congress, Board Director, Branch Chair

Ann Moffatt FACS FBCS
ACS Foundation Director, Branch Chair, Committee Chair

John O'Callaghan MACS FTSE
Supercomputing Research, Pearcey Medal

Adrian Porteous FACS
Management Committee, Professional Standards Board, Branch Chair

John Puttick FACS ACA
IT Entrepreneur, Pearcey Hall of Fame

Karl Reed FACS HLM
Council, Board Director, Branch Chair

Jennifer Seberry FACS FIMA FIACR
Leading cryptologist, first Australian female Professor of Comp Sci

Benjamin Smith MACS CP
Congress, Branch Chair

Robin Stanton FTSE
Professor of Computer Science, Faculty Dean, Pearcey Hall of Fame

Arthur Tatnall FACS
Education and Heritage Committees, IFIP WG Chair, Branch Committee

Peter Thorne AM FACS
Computing Historian, Heritage Committee

Robert Tisdall FACS HLM
Management Committee, Congress, Branch Chair

Tim Turner FACS
Congress, Fellows Committee, Branch Chair

Alan Underwood FACS HLM
President, Branch Chair, Board Director

Ted Wastie FACS HLM FAIM
President, Council, President World Computer Congress, Branch Chair

John Weckert MACS
IT Ethicist, Ethics Committee, IFIP Representative

Devindra Weerasooriya MACS Snr CP
Consulting Architect, Company Director

Marcus Wigan FACS
IT Research and Standards Consultancies, ELSIC Committee, Ethics Committee