

DAY 1 (JUNE 13): CSIRAC PIONEERS' DAY

Venue: The University of Melbourne
Department of Computer Science
Theatre 1, Basement, SEECs Building
221 Bouverie Street Carlton

Former CSIRAC personnel will present papers emphasising routine and/or historically significant features of their work. These presentations will include anecdotal, personal, and human interest aspects of their association with CSIRAC. A highlight of the conference will be the reunion of many former CSIRAC operators and users. Emphasis in presentations will be on the first decade of electronic computing in Australia (up to the mid 1960s).

9:00 - 9:30 Opening.

Welcome and introduction by Peter Thorne, Head of Department of Computer Science, University of Melbourne. Preliminary comments on the significance of CSIRAC.

9:30 - 10:30 Early history of CSIRAC.

The conception and planning, design and construction, and early operation and development of CSIRAC - mid 1940s to 1956. (Design completed 1947; construction completed 1948; operated first program 1949; used as a working computer 1951 onwards). Speaker: Trevor Pearcey. (by telephone)

10:30 - 10:45 Morning tea break

10:45 - 12:00 CSIRAC's Southern Relocation.

The Move to Melbourne. The logistics behind the transfer of CSIRAC to Melbourne - early 1950s to mid 1950s. Lead speaker Frank Hirst, supported by Geoff Chandler and Ron Bowles.

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch

1:30 - 3:00 Users of CSIRAC in Melbourne 1956 - 1964.

Users included many local and national institutions including the University of Melbourne, CSIRO, and private enterprise. Speakers will share their pioneering work and personal experiences. Speakers will include Arthur Cope, Alan Head, Terry Holden, Alan Moore, Jim Morrison, Peter Murton, John Russell, John Spencer, and others.

3:00 - 3:15 Afternoon tea break

3:15 - 3:45 Users of CSIRAC in Melbourne 1956 - 1964 (cont...)

3:45 - 4:15 CSIRAC in retirement.

Decommissioning of CSIRAC. Move to the Museum, then Caulfield Institute, and back to the Museum. Speakers will include Ron Bowles, Frank Hirst, Trevor Pearcey and George Semkiw.

4:15 - 4:30 Final wrap-up. Summary and Recapitulation.

Speaker: Peter Thorne.

CSIRAC PIONEER'S DAY (EVENING SESSION)

5:30 - 7:00 Australian Computer Society CSIRAC Celebration Seminar

Venue: Public Lecture Theatre
Old Arts Building
The University of Melbourne.

A free public seminar on CSIRAC will be hosted by the Australian Computer Society (ACS). This session will provide an overview of the development, use and historic significance of CSIRAC. Key personnel associated with CSIRAC will be introduced and will briefly describe their contributions. Presentation to be supported with archival video material. The CSIRAC Preservation Fund will be launched

7:30 - 10:00 Australian Computer Society CSIRAC Celebration Dinner

Venue: University House, University of Melbourne

A celebration dinner will be held in honour of the pioneers of Australian computing.

DAY 2 (JUNE 14)**CSIRAC IN CONTEXT**

Venue: The University of Melbourne
Department of Computer Science
Theatre 1, Basement, SEECS Building
221 Bouverie Street Carlton

9:00 - 1:00 Seminar on Social and Scientific Impacts of CSIRAC.

Morning session chaired by Barry Butcher.

Brief presentations covering a range of issues related to CSIRAC and the history of computing. Reminiscences on CSIRAC and issues relating to early computing, the importance of CSIRAC as a national icon, the social impacts of computing.

9:15 - 9:45 Max Burnet.

The pre-history of electronic computing.

9:45 - 10:15 Allan Bromley.

The origins of the stored-program concept.

10:15 - 10:45 John Bennett.

The history of Australian computing with reference to the Sydney experience.

10:45 - 11:00 Morning Tea

11:00 - 11:30 Peter Thorne.

The importance of CSIRAC in a national and international context.

11:30 - 12:00 Marcus Wigan

The social context of modern computing.

12:00 - 1:00 ACMS panel chaired by Marcus Wigan.

Australian Computer Museum Society (ACMS) will explore issues related to the storage and preservation of computer hardware and software. This will include a discussion of the recording of personal memories related to computer history.

The recently formed Australian Computer Museum Society (Victorian Branch) will be officially inaugurated.

1:00 - 2:30 Lunch

2:30 - 4:00 Computer Exhibition Tour: CSIRAC on Parade

Venue: The University of Melbourne
Department of Computer Science
Library, Basement, SEECS Building
221 Bouverie Street Carlton

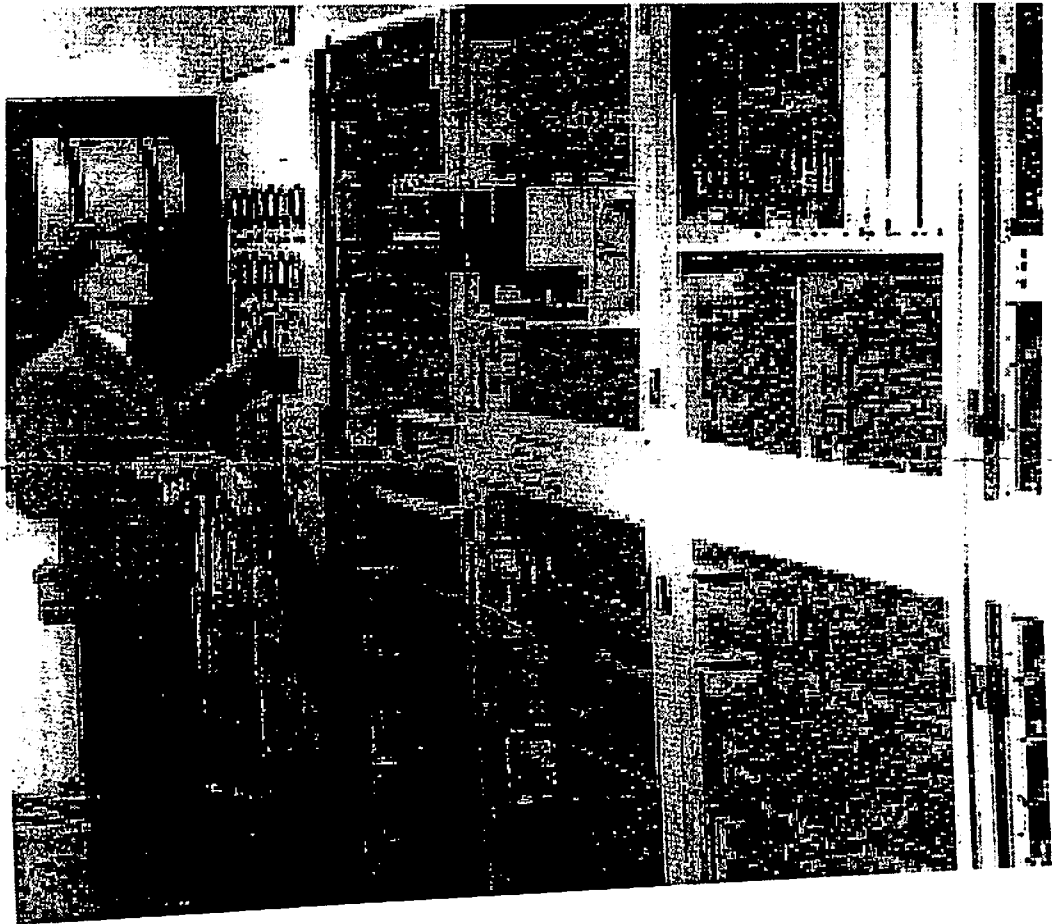
CSIRAC itself will be on display alongside other early computing devices. There will be items for display from the University of Melbourne's Department of Computer Science, Scienceworks, and members of the ACMS.

In conjunction with this exhibition CSIRO Division of Information Technology will lead a tour of their supercomputing facility.

The CSIRAC Celebration

40 Years of Computing in Victoria

13 & 14 June 1996



Program

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