

## Welcome from the ascilite 2009 organising committee

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The ascilite 2009 Organising Committee extends a very warm welcome to delegates to the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Ascilite International Conference.

ascilite has a long tradition of excellence in providing a forum for educators from around the world to present and share their innovative ideas, research and aspirations with like minded people. Often referred to as the 'friendly conference' the committee has worked hard to ensure that this tradition is continued.

The theme *Same places, different spaces* reflects the ever-changing nature of the student learning and teaching environment. The Internet and digital tools are influencing the way educators and students interact, learn and teach, and the locations in which this occurs.

Delegates will find much to stimulate and interest them in the wide range of subjects in quality presentations. For the first time, a real effort has been made to increase the degree of interaction between presenters and delegates. We hope it works well for you.

We would like to thank all those who made submissions for conference presentation, be they workshops, research or concise papers, posters or keynote addresses. Your commitment to sharing your expertise and knowledge is invaluable and much appreciated.

We would also like to thank the review team and its leaders Dr Roger Atkinson and Dr Clare McBeath. A sterling job, not without its challenges, has achieved an excellent outcome.

The conference could never operate and provide the resources and facilities it does, without the generous support of our sponsors. We acknowledge all of them with grateful thanks.

Finally a big thank you to those members of the organising committee who gave their time and expertise to making sure ascilite 2009 happened. Also to the ascilite Executive for believing in us.

In conclusion, we hope that all delegates will immerse themselves in an enjoyable conference experience and contribute to the ongoing collaboration and support throughout the ascilite community and beyond.

Richard Elliott  
for the ascilite 2009 organising committee

## Editorial from the Program Committee

We are very pleased to report to authors, Conference delegates and *ascilite* Members generally that *ascilite* Auckland 2009 continues the sound growth pattern established in previous years (Tables 1 and 2) [1, 2].

Table 1: No. of submissions and presentations at *ascilite* Auckland 2009

Category	Sub	Full papers		Concise papers		Posters		Rej
		Acc	Pres	Acc	Pres	Acc	Pres	
Full papers	104	77	76	8	7	13	3	6
Concise	87	-	-	67	58	13	8	7
Posters	35	-	-	-	-	35	30	0
Total	226	77	76	75	65	61	41	13

Notes: Data is at 22 Nov 2009 and may be revised after recounts. The numbers presented are lower than numbers accepted owing to cancellations and declining of offers, which occurred mainly in the category of 'full paper offered poster'. The table does not record workshops, interactive sessions and symposia: Committee received 22 workshop proposals (13 accepted; 13 presented), 16 interactive session proposals (8 accepted; 8 presented), and 9 symposium proposals (7 accepted; 7 presented). Two concise papers were presented also as posters.

Table 2: Numbers of presentations at *ascilite* Conferences 2001-2009

	Melb 01	Auck 02	Adel 03	Perth 04	Bris 05	Syd 06	Sg 07	Melb 08	Auck 09*
Total no. subs received**	na	185	118	153	119	194	195	216	226
Total no. presentations***	104	124	109	131	96	152	166	162	180
Full paps ('traditional' pres.)	61	76	60	68	56	69	80	76	72
Concise paps ('short' pres.)	24	31	38	51	30	53	46	59	69
Poster presentations	19	17	11	12	10	30	40	27	39

Notes: \* Auckland 09 data is at 22 November 2009. Owing to scheduling constraints, 4 full papers were allocated a 'concise' presentation period; these are in the 'short' count. Two concise papers were presented also as posters; these are omitted from the poster count.

\*\* The table does not record numbers of workshop, special session or symposia submissions and presentations. Melbourne 2001 numbers are from the Conference website. Numbers for others are from the printed *Proceedings* and the websites. There are some minor discrepancies between Programs and *Proceedings*, presumably due to cancellations, not detailed in this table.

\*\*\* The number of presentations is lower than total accepted due to cancellations and declining of offers.

Once again we were fortunate to obtain a large and diverse panel of volunteers for the Conference's review duties (Tables 3 and 4). With a large panel, we succeeded in keeping the load per reviewer at a reasonable level, namely an average of 2.31 papers per reviewer. After 4 editorial rejects, we commissioned 561 reviews (3 reviews each for 187 papers) and received 521 returns (93%; 40 papers were each missing one review due to reviewers being ill and other unforeseen circumstances; each was checked by Committee to ascertain whether it was reasonable to proceed on the basis of two reviews, and in a few cases a supplementary review was done by Committee members). The lower return rate compared with *ascilite Melbourne 2008* is due in part to a problem with one university's spam

blocking measures rejecting email from MyReview, without notifying rjatkinson@bigpond.com, the nominated sender. This cut off six reviewers because the problem was not discovered until too late.

Table 3: Origins of reviewers by country

Countries or city or province	No.	%
Australia (.au)	162	66.7
New Zealand (.nz)	21	8.7
Singapore (.sg)	17	7.0
United Kingdom (.uk)	13	5.3
Malaysia (.my)	13	5.3
China Hong Kong (.hk)	6	2.5
USA, Canada	2	0.8
Other: Arab Emirates(1), Chile(1), Greece(1), Japan(2), Oman(1), Sweden(2), India(1)	9	3.7
Total	243	100

We thank our reviewers very much indeed! Their work is so important in two respects, firstly their formative feedback which authors need to improve their papers, and secondly reviewers and the review criteria they work to enable us to sustain our assurance to Australian authors that the process complies with the ARC's guidelines [3, 4] for *Higher Education Research Data Collection* eligibility. We also thank NetSpot very warmly for their hosting of the *MyReview* software we used for recording review panel membership, receiving initial proposals in all categories, receiving reviews, and producing ranked lists based on the completed reviews.

Table 4 continues a recent addition to our routine compilation of descriptive statistics for *ascilite* Conferences. Gender proportions are reasonably similar for both authors and reviewers, suggesting tentatively, at least in relation to this particular demographic, that we do not have a significant 'generational gap' or a 'hierarchical gap' between authors and reviewers.

Table 4: Reviewers and authors by gender

	Male	Female	Not det.	Total
Reviewers	116	120	7	243
Authors	171	244	25	440

Reviewer and author gender was determined on the basis of first name, or personal acquaintance, or institutional website information. Those not identified within a reasonable amount of searching time were counted as 'Not det.', i.e. . The author count is for authors of full and concise paper submissions only. Poster authors, workshop presenters and special session/symposia chairs have not been included. The authorship count is on a per submission basis, i.e. authors named on 2, 3, ... submissions are counted 2, 3, ... times. For similar data on AJET's authors and reviewers, see AJET Editorial 23(3). <http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet23/editorial23-3.html>

Table 5, comparable with similar tables for *ascilite Singapore 2007* [1] and *ascilite Melbourne 2008* [2] continues our monitoring the goal of building a larger authorship on a regional basis. Table 6 monitors our longer term consistency in acceptance rates, which seem reasonable for this genre of research presentation and publication. We are mindful that the Australian Research Council (ARC) has given tentative or perhaps firm notice of its intention to introduce a system of ranking or "Tiering" academic research

conferences, to help serve its *Excellence in Research for Australia* (ERA) agenda [5, 6]. At this stage we have no information on the criteria the ARC will use to assign a *Tier A*, or *B* or *C* ranking to conferences such as *ascilite's*, or the impact that may have on a conference's international standing, though we may presume that "rejection rate" will be a factor.

Table 5: Origins of submissions and acceptance rates of full and concise papers by country

Countries or city (a)	No. sub	% of subs	No. acc (b)	% acc
Australia (.au)	102	53.4	81	79.4
New Zealand (.nz)	48	25.1	42	87.5
United Kingdom (.uk)	17	8.9	14	82.4
Malaysia (.my)	6	3.2	4	66.7
China Hong Kong (.hk)	5	2.6	3	60.0
Singapore (.sg)	4	2.1	1	25.0
USA and Canada	4	2.1	3	75.0
Others (c)	5	2.6	4	80.0
Total	191	100.0	152	79.6

- a. Determined from address or home country of the first author.  
 b. Accepted as full or concise papers (11 withdrawals occurred post-acceptance).  
 c. One each from Chile, Finland, Germany, Greece  
 The dataset is subject to recounts. For similar data on AJET's submissions and acceptances, see AJET Editorial 25(3),  
<http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet25/editorial25-3.html>

Table 6: Full paper acceptance rates for *ascilite* Conferences

Year	No. full papers sub	No. of full paps acc*	% acceptance
2009	104	77	74.0%
2008	113	81	71.7%
2007	109	81	74.3%
2006	108	71	65.7%
2005	82	58	70.7%
2004	104	69	66.3%

Average acceptance rate 2004-2009: 70.5%

\* Does not include full papers that were accepted subject to revision to concise format.

With growth in the number of presentations of full and concise papers, and the expansion in the Symposium and Interactive session categories, we had to do some 'squeezing' in the timetabling of presentations. Firstly, four accepted full papers had to be allocated 'short' presentation times and we regret that necessity. Secondly, we have made a small reduction in time allocations compared with previous Conferences, by scheduling three full papers and one concise paper into each 90 minute session. We realise that successful implementation of this measure will be very dependent upon a disciplined approach to time keeping, by presenters, session chairs and conference delegates generally. In particular, presenters will need to be especially alert to the importance of allowing time for questions, session chairs will be very strict about finishing each presentation on time, and delegates who do change rooms during a session must be 'quick and quiet' in their movements.

Authors and readers may notice that the general standard of copy editing for *Proceedings* papers does not match the standards that apply for journal papers. This is a problem arising from the much larger numbers of papers and the much more compressed timeframe that editors face with the *Proceedings*, compared

with a journal. However, in addressing this problem the main element very likely will have to be better educating and informing of authors, because finding more editors, or allowing more time for their work, or higher rejection rates are not attractive options for societies and conference committees generally. For our part, we hope to prepare more detailed advice for authors and reviewers, for later publication via *ascilite* channels, being very hard up against today's deadlines! [2]

The reason for the above quotation of a full paragraph from the *Proceedings ascilite Melbourne 2008* Editorial [2] is that in 2009 we have encountered the same problems, at an increased intensity and volume. However, we should emphasise that the copy editing stage is only one of many stages that are under pressure in the conduct of the academic program aspect of conducting a conference. We suggest that *ascilite* and future Conference committees be especially conscious of the need to deploy an increasing number of volunteers to conduct publicity, review panel formation, the review process, author advice processes, copy editing of revised versions, assembly of the Program Booklet, and mounting of files for the Proceedings website.

Notwithstanding these kinds of strains that arise with the growth of the *ascilite* Conference, we feel very privileged to have worked with such a large number of authors, reviewers and Committee members over the past few years. As we look towards moving on from a *Second Life* to a *Second Retirement*, we see a great reward, for all concerned as well as ourselves, in the way that the *ascilite* Conference series has maintained balance, fidelity, mobility and momentum (to paraphrase from *ascilite Brisbane 2005*) upon two perspectives, or two key parts of the full picture. These are the "process" of *developing persons* and, on the "product" side, the *publishing of scholarly research* (to paraphrase again, from a recent AJET Editorial [5]). We are privileged indeed!

Roger Atkinson and Clare McBeath  
For *ascilite Auckland 2009* Program Committee

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5. For a more detailed discussion, and for references, please see AJET Editorial 25(4), <http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet25/editorial25-4.html>
6. Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) (2008). ERA Indicator Descriptors.  
[http://www.arc.gov.au/pdf/ERA\\_Indicator\\_Descriptors.pdf](http://www.arc.gov.au/pdf/ERA_Indicator_Descriptors.pdf) (p.5-6)

Data compilation: Roger Atkinson [rjatinson@bigpond.com](mailto:rjatinson@bigpond.com), for *ascilite Auckland 2009* Program Committee. For the most recent version of *ascilite Auckland 2009* data tables, please see <http://www.ascilite.org.au/conferences/auckland09/procs/>

## Review panel

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Shirley Agostinho, University of Wollongong  
Reem Al-Mahmood, The University of Melbourne  
Peter Albion, University of Southern Queensland  
Rozz Albon, Curtin University of Technology  
Belinda Allen, University of New South Wales  
Alan Anderson, The University of Newcastle  
Baharuddin Aris, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia  
Roger Atkinson, AJET  
Naomi Augar, Deakin University  
Karen Baskett, National Prescribing Service Ltd  
Ivan Beale, University of New South Wales  
Stephanie Beames, Queensland University of Technology  
Carolyn Beasley, Swinburne University of Technology  
Robyn Benson, Monash University  
Marsha Berry, RMIT University  
Trevor Billany, Charles Darwin University  
Jenny Bird, Southern Cross University  
Getnet Demissie Bitew, Goshen College, USA  
Peter Blakey, Australian Catholic University  
Paul Blayney, The University of Sydney  
Claire Bradley, London Metropolitan University  
Marti Brandon-Cremer, Australian Technical College North Queensland Ltd  
David Bremer, Otago Polytechnic  
Christopher Brook, Curtin University of Technology  
Claire Brooks, The University of Melbourne  
Mark Brown, Massey University  
Dean Bruton, University of Adelaide  
Kevin Burden, The University of Hull  
Matthew Butler, Monash University  
Rod Byrnes, Southern Cross University  
Leanne Cameron, Macquarie University  
Chris Campbell, The University of Notre Dame Australia  
Matthew Campbell, Australian Catholic University  
Ching Sing Chai, Nanyang Technological University  
Dianne Chambers, The University of Melbourne  
Shanton Chang, The University of Melbourne  
Juliana Chau, Hong Kong Polytechnic University  
Chwen Jen Chen, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak  
Wei Fong Cheng, Tunku Abdul Rahman College  
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Shane Dawson, University of Wollongong  
Leitha Delves, The University of Western Australia  
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Claire Donald, University of Auckland  
Peter Donnan, University of Canberra  
Mary Dracup, Deakin University  
Laurel Evelyn Dyson, University of Technology  
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Irina Elgort, Victoria University of Wellington  
Ainslie Ellis, LaTrobe University  
Allan Ellis, Southern Cross University  
Peter Evans, University of Southern Queensland  
Linda Fang Mei Ling, Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore  
Malcolm Field, Future University, Hakodate  
Sally Firmin, University of Ballarat  
Mark Freeman, The University of Sydney  
Sergio Freschi, Cambridge University  
Lynne Giddings, AUT University  
Veronica Goerke, Curtin University of Technology  
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Annegret Goold, Deakin University  
Maree Gosper, Macquarie University  
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Andrea Hall, Sultan Qaboos University  
Margaret Hamilton, RMIT University  
John Hannon, La Trobe University  
Barry Harper, University of Wollongong  
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Khe Foon Hew, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore  
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Trudy Stoddard, Tabor Adelaide  
John Supple, Victoria University  
Jennie Swann, Auckland University of Technology  
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Belinda Tynan, University of New England  
Philip Uys, Charles Sturt University  
Michael Vallance, Future University Hakodate  
Deborah Veness, The Australian National University  
Elena Verezub, Swinburne University of Technology  
Peter Vitartas, Southern Cross University  
Panos Vlachopoulos, Massey University  
Christian Voigt, University of South Australia  
Mary-Helen Ward, The University of Sydney  
Rob Wass, University of Otago  
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Gail Wilson, Bond University  
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Woo Huay Lit, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore  
Denise Wood, University of South Australia  
Venkat Yanamandram, University of Wollongong  
Jon Yorke, Curtin University of Technology  
May Chan Yuen, Multimedia University  
Lynette Zeeng, Swinburne University of Technology

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## Program in brief

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### Sunday 6 December

8.00am	Registration desk opens
9.00 – 12.00am	Workshops
12.00 – 1.00pm	Lunch
1.00 – 4.00pm	Workshops
7.00 – 9.00pm	Welcome reception and prizes presentation

### Monday 7 December

8.00am	Registration desk opens
9.00 – 9.45	Opening
9.45 – 10.30	Keynote address: Scott Diener
10.30 – 10.55	Morning tea and poster display
10.55 – 11.35	Invited speaker and President's address
11.40 – 12.40	Parallel presentations 1
12.40 – 1.50	Lunch and sponsor exhibitions
12.40 – 1.50	ascilite Annual General Meeting
1.50 – 3.20	Parallel presentations 2
3.20 – 3.45	Afternoon tea and poster display
3.45 – 5.15	Parallel presentations 3
5.15 – 6.00	Special interest group meeting

### Tuesday 8 December

8.00am	Registration desk opens
9.00 – 10.35	Keynote address: Grainne Conole Invited Speaker: Peter Mellow
10.40 – 11.10	Morning tea and poster display
11.10 – 12.40	Parallel presentations 4
12.40 – 1.30	Lunch and sponsor exhibitions
1.30 – 3.00	Parallel presentations 5
3.00 – 3.30	Afternoon tea and poster display
3.30 – 5.00	Parallel presentations 6
5.00 – 6.00	Special interest group meeting
7.00 – 11.30	Conference dinner (Skycity)

### Wednesday 9 December

8.30	Registration desk opens
9.00 – 9.15	Research grant winner: Matthew Riddle
9.15 – 10.45	Parallel presentations 7
10.45 – 11.10	Morning tea and poster display
11.10 – 12.40	Parallel presentations 8
12.40 – 1.30	Lunch and poster sessions
1.30 – 2.55	Keynote address: James Clay Prize giving and Handover to ascilite 2010
3.00	ascilite Annual Executive meeting