



## **Report from the AVIOS Australian Chapter Committee**

**January 2008**

The first official event organized by the Australian Chapter of AVIOS was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2007 at the Telstra Innovation Centre in Melbourne (kindly arranged by Committee member Philip Sein).

We had attendees representing a range of interests, including business users of speech recognition, suppliers, consultants, designers and developers. They represented a wide range of organizations, including KAZ, Sensis, VeCommerce, Dimension Data, Telstra, Inference Communications, Appen, NSC, StarNet, UCMS, Callsys, iiDesign, SmartSpeak, Holly, Westan and Stamford Interactive.

Alan Knipe (the inaugural President of the Australian Chapter of AVIOS) welcomed attendees and talked about what the Australian committee was looking to achieve and how the association would function in Australia. (The PowerPoint Alan presented is also linked to this site).

Alan introduced the inaugural Australian Chapter committee and asked all attendees for their continued support and input into how the association would function and the events planned for 2008.

Attendees addressed a number of questions to the committee – answers below;

1. We looked to establish a committee that representative of all stakeholder groups, so Dr. Liz Bednall represents the usability and design group, Kirsty McCarthy SME vendor, Phil Sein enterprise vendor and telecommunications, Alan Knipe a small business user, Lawrence represents academia and we are finalizing a representative from an enterprise customer.
2. It is registered as an official chapter of AVIOS
3. The first committee meeting was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2007.
4. Alan and Kirsty participated in a telephone conference call with the AVIOS Board members in November 2007 to gain more insights into how the association functioned in the US .
5. It was stressed that both AVIOS and non AVIOS interested parties would be invited to Australian meetings and non members would be encouraged to join.

6. The parent body and sponsors would be asked to fund local meetings.
  7. The initial setup and funding was provided at no cost to the chapter by the generous donation of both time and costs by the committee members.
  8. It was stressed that AVIOS is moving from its academic and design origins to a more practical base.
  9. One of the aims of the association would be to assist in enhancing the image of VIO by improving existing systems, encouraging standards and rewarding good designs in a vendor neutral environment.
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10. The committee stressed that any interested parties discuss their interest with us.
  11. The committee would then consider adding extra members or specialist assistants in specific areas to enhance the Australian committee.

#### Presentation from Bruce Balantine

See Bruce's presentation focused on User Interface Design linked to this site.

#### The President's visit to New York

The morning after our first event, Alan Knipe jumped on a plane and flew to the US where Sara Basson had very kindly rescheduled an AVIOS New York Chapter meeting to accommodate Alan's travel plans. Alan appreciated the opportunity to meet the people we had previously spoken with on the phone and learn more about AVIOS central.