I would like to begin by congratulating Assistant Professor Catherine Middleton, an Australian-born academic currently working at Ryerson University in Toronto, for winning the ANCCAC (Australian National Committee on Computation and Automatic Control) Award for her article "Who Needs a 'Killer App'? Two Perspectives on Content in Residential Broadband Networks" which examined drivers for residential broadband networks, and appeared in Volume 34 #2 pp. 67–81 of the *Journal of Research and Practice in Information Technology*. In response to receiving the award, she said her findings were at odds with the view predominantly held by vendors that a killer application was needed to encourage broadband adoption. "I talked to the ISPs and cable companies and they were all saying, "There has to be a killer application to make people use broadband," but I found their broadband customers were happily sharing files and sending emails and doing what they'd always done with dial-up, only faster," said Dr Middleton. "They weren't waiting for a killer app to find value from broadband – they simply wanted to communicate more efficiently and in different ways." "…the primary use most customers have for broadband, is simply the way it allows people to talk to each other," she said. Australian Computer Society Publications Board Director, Tom Worthington, said the ANCCAC Medal aimed to recognise and encourage excellence in ICT research and publishing.

Volume 35#3 (August, 2003) contains six enjoyable and interesting articles and a book review. We begin with an article by Michael de Raadt, Richard Watson and Mark Toleman which reports on a comprehensive survey of introductory programming languages taught currently at Australian universities and why those languages have been chosen.

Our second article is a short guide to a topic which is ignored by businesses and universities at their peril – namely Intellectual Property (IP) Auditing. In this article Sharyn Ch'ang and Marina Yastebroff outline their approach to the identification and protection of IP through auditing.

Our third paper is by Lisa Bowman, a former journalist turned communications consultant, and is a first-hand account of Resultmedia.com, the dotcom company she and Stuart Rankin created at the tail end of the tech-boom, and how it survived and flourished.

Our fourth paper is by Angela Cavaye and Stephano Ah Fock and sets out to investigate how software firms can manage their software development in order to compete effectively. They focus on reusability of software components and report on both the published literature and their survey of Australian software firms, presenting implications for practitioners and suggesting avenues for future research.

Our fifth paper is by Somjai Boonsiri, Robert Seacord and David Mundle and is titled "Rule-Based COTS [Commercial Off-The-Shelf] Integration". Noting that Basili and Boehm (IEEE Computer Volume 35, May 2001) show that more than 99% of all existing computer instructions come from COTS products, our authors describe an automated rule-based approach to evaluating ensembles of components within the context of a system requirements specification. Their model can be thought of as an expert system for system integration. They say "It allows system integrators to explore a broader component space than is possible using manual techniques, and quickly eliminates components that are overly difficult to integrate".

Our final paper is by Jeanette Akkeren and Debra Harker and is called "The Mobile Internet and Small Business: An Exploratory Study of Needs, Uses and Adoption with Full-Adoptors of Technology". The authors describe the two objectives of this paper: "First, to discuss the literature in the area of adoption of mobile innovation and, second, to report on the findings of an empirical study with SMEs [Small and Medium Enterprises] in a regional setting, where the focus was on those businesses that were full-adopters of technology. The primary aim is to identify the needs of SMEs in regional areas for mobile data technologies (MDT), the mobile Internet".

To complete this issue we have a book review by Danny Yee from his website http://dannyreviews.com. The review is of the 372 page book "From Airline Reservations to Sonic the Hedgehog – A History of the Software Industry" by Martin Campbell-Kelly which was published this year by MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

JRPIT would very much like to publish reviews of all IT books by Australian authors. We can do this only with the assistance of our readers. If you are interested in being a book reviewer or you are an Australian author with a book you would like reviewed, please email me at jrpit@ballarat.edu.au. Guidelines for book reviews in JRPIT have been substantially modified and appear on the JRPIT website.

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