

Curriculum Vitae: Dr. Ian Richards

Position: Lecturer, Faculty of Science (continuing fractional 0.5)
Lecturer, Faculty of Arts (fixed term fractional 0.5)

Qualifications: Ph.D., awarded 1982, Monash
B.Sc. (Honours), awarded 1977, Monash

Current Studies: GCTTL, USQ

Interests: Sustainability, Ethics, Politics, Community Development,
Online and Critical Pedagogy, Software Engineering,
Astronomy

Employment History

Lecturer, USQ (July 2000 – current)

Maths and Computing

My initial appointment was on a casual basis to deliver lectures and tutorials at the then Wide Bay campus in one computing course during Semester 2, 2000. I took up a fractional 0.5 fixed-term appointment from February to July 2001 to deliver lectures and tutorials at Fraser Coast in a number of courses during Semester 1, 2001. During this time a continuing lecturer position (fractional 0.5 teaching and scholarship) was advertised to commence in July 2001. I was successful in being appointed to that position which I continue to hold.

I have subsequently taught into ten different computing courses, have completely redeveloped study materials for four computing courses, and have been examiner numerous times for two courses. In 2007 I developed the first transmodal CD package for a computing course (*CSC2402 Object Oriented Programming in C++*) and pioneered the use of Adobe Captivate for the development of narrated software development walkthroughs. This course was selected by USQ as one of ten for inclusion in our Open Courseware offerings.

Human Services

In 2003 I was asked to do some casual teaching in the newly established Community Welfare and Development program at Fraser Coast. This took advantage of my extensive experience in community organisations and politics. I have subsequently become examiner for two courses (CDS1000 and CDS2001) within this program and have been an active member of the Program Management Team for the Human Services programs. In 2006 the programs were extended to external mode and my two courses were redeveloped for that mode. In 2007 I also took became examiner of CDS2000 and all three courses were further redeveloped to use transmodal CD delivery and one has an extensive resource DVD which I developed mostly from free-to-air television snippets.

Other Arts Courses

I have taught on campus students at Fraser Coast in a number of courses in the Bachelor of Mass Communications program. As a result of my IT expertise I

contributed significantly to the course CMS2016 *Communication, Technology and Policy* which is also included in USQ's Open Courseware offerings.

Self Employed (January 1998 – June 2000)

During 1996-97 my wife and I made the decision to "down shift" from our busy Sydney lifestyles to a more relaxed lifestyle in Hervey Bay where we had purchased a house some years earlier. I considered the possibility of contacting USQ for possible employment at that time, aware that the Wide Bay campus was being developed, but the course offerings were limited. Instead, we decided to operate a small eco-tourism business. The business operated with varying degrees of success but we found that we were just as busy as we had been in Sydney! Unable to sell the business, we closed it down in June 2000.

Development Manager, Praxa Ltd. (April 1996 – December 1997)

Upon my departure from Digital Equipment, I filled a vacancy for the Software Development Manager in Praxa's Sydney office. I had retained equity in Praxa which had now grown to several hundred employees including over 50 in the Sydney office. My group worked primarily for Optus Communications on operational software for their telephone networks. Prior to my arrival the group had low utilisation, poor engineering practices and had suffered a number of costly project overruns. During my 21 months there I grew the group from about 10 to 20 engineers and greatly enhanced the development and management practices, avoiding project overruns and increasing utilisation. I also undertook consultancies, developed proposals and did project planning and cost estimation.

Engineering Manager, Digital Equipment Corp. (1992 - March 1996)

My last four years at Digital Equipment were as Engineering Manager, initially for the networking sub-section of the Sydney R&D Centre and subsequently for the entire R&D Centre. At its peak I was managing an engineering operation of approximately sixty people with a commensurate operating budget of over \$5 million. My responsibilities included engineering practices, project costing, recruitment, staff review and mentoring, financial control and participation in strategic/product planning. During the last 9 months of my time at Digital, the company was undergoing significant internal "change" ultimately resulting in its takeover by Compaq in 1998. My group was reorganised and there were a series of redundancies. In the end I chose to take voluntary redundancy myself.

Principal Software Engineer, Digital Equipment (May 1990 – 1992)

In early 1990, Digital Equipment had commenced the development of an Australian made network server product with a development budget of about \$2.5 million. The project team were floundering and needed direction. Digital "head hunted" me from Praxa, who as a Digital distributor, agreed to my move. I took technical control of this major software development project, including the successful worldwide rollout of the product during 1992. It was an exciting project and remains one of my most satisfying achievements. As technical leader I worked with and mentored a team of about a dozen other hardware and software engineers, retaining overall control of the architectural design and software standards.

Consultant, Praxa Ltd. (December 1987 - May 1990)

I had helped set up Praxa in 1983 and retained considerable equity in the company, which had grown to about 80 employees by 1987. My roles at Praxa were many and varied, including many major consultancies, often involving requirements engineering, systems analysis or network design. These often lead to major development projects that I costed and in some cases subsequently managed. I also undertook product management activities involving the planning of all aspects of the Australian distribution by Praxa of a range of network integration products sourced from US based manufacturers.

Senior Research Scientist, CSIRO (June 1986 – November 1987)

I left the university sector in search of a more fulfilling research environment at CSIRO's newly formed Division of Information Technology. My work there mostly focused on development of emerging international networking standards and I attended several international standards meetings. I also continued my involvement in the planning of the Australian Academic and Research Network (Aarnet) that I had commenced at the University of Melbourne. I found the CSIRO environment to be highly bureaucratic and not supportive of my research goals. It was a difficult time for me and for the entire CSIRO Division of IT, whose Director left at about the same time that I did.

Lecturer, University of Melbourne (July 1980 – May 1986)

I was fortunate to gain an academic position in the highly respected Department of Computer Science at the University of Melbourne. It allowed me to complete my Ph.D. write-up in a more supportive environment and exposed me to a broad range of teaching and research activities. After the completion of my Ph.D. thesis in early 1981, my research interests moved from object-oriented operating systems to networking. This was an exciting time with the first deployment of the Internet into Australia. During 1985-86 I undertook the strategic planning of the University's future networking requirements, a task that I greatly enjoyed. This also linked to the development of Aarnet.

Programmer, University of Melbourne (January – June 1990)

Upon the expiration of my three-year postgraduate research scholarship, I gained paid employment as a programmer for the Department of Psychology at the University of Melbourne. The work was interesting and gave me some opportunity to complete the write-up of my Ph.D. thesis.