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Board Communique 77

Dear <<First Name>>

Last week the Board was pleased to hold its first face-to-face meeting since February last year, at ATSE's new Secretariat in Canberra. We used the opportunity to invite Fellows, Canberra decision-makers, partners and supporters to a networking event in the new office, at which we **publicly announced** our new education initiative, CS in Schools. Founded by Google Maps and eBay pioneer Hugh Williams and his collaborators, CS in Schools is an innovative and highly effective new program to deliver free quality coding education to Australian secondary students, and ATSE and the Board are delighted to count it as one of our flagship STEM career pathways programs.

Our in-person meeting also presented an opportunity to undertake a professional development session – a one-day governance workshop with an expert facilitator, which the Board found extremely worthwhile in updating and crystallising our thinking and approach to strategic and fiduciary responsibilities. It also provided a fitting setting for our subsequent discussion of the 2020 Governance Review, led by Assembly Deputy Chair Dr Joanne Daly (who also provided an update on Assembly activities). The Board encourages Fellows to consider nominating for the **Governance Review Implementation Working Group**.

Following the formal adoption of the Strategic Plan for 2021-25 earlier this year, the Board also considered and endorsed the Operational Plan for the coming financial year. The plan has been thoughtfully conceived and includes both core business-as-usual and some new and aspirational initiatives, based on the extensive Fellowship consultations and Assembly discussions. The plan maps to the activities identified through the Fellowship consultation and the Board is confident that, through it, ATSE's potential to acquit its mission – to help Australians to understand and use technology to solve complex problems – will continue to grow.

The Infrastructure Forum put to the Board a new ATSE Position Statement – **Infrastructure: Building Australia's Future**. The Position Statement provides important context for ATSE's ongoing advocacy for resilient, accessible civil infrastructure, particularly in light of the increasing frequency of extreme weather events. It has been formally endorsed as a Position of the Academy, and the Board commends it to the Fellowship.

Also considered at the meeting were the 2021 Awardees. Plans are now underway to announce and celebrate the successful candidates through a coordinated national event and broadcast, early in the evening of 10 June. More information will be available in the next fortnight.

Finally, and importantly, the Board has approved an updated Code of Conduct, and encourages all Fellows to ensure they have read and understood this important policy. The Code update has been conducted following extensive and thorough consultations and investigations with Fellows, Divisions, Forum Chairs and Assembly and led by the Vice President Diversity, and it represents a timely and important modern approach to enshrining a culture of respect and safety at ATSE. We trust that every Fellow and member of staff will acquaint themselves with their rights and responsibilities under the updated Code, so that we can all work together to ensure ATSE is a safe and welcoming Academy that proudly upholds the traditions of respect and collegiality.

Yours Sincerely,

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The Academy acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.