

**1. Welcome as Chair**  
**Kent Adams**  
**Director**  
**Information Technology & Resources**  
**James Cook University**

It is a great pleasure to be here in Cairns welcoming delegates to the first QUESTnet conference to be held north of Townsville; another frontier. On behalf of QUESTnet and this years host, James Cook University, I welcome you to the 2004 QUESTnet Conference and Cairns. This year QUESTnet has had the opportunity to assist AARNet in providing support for the 18<sup>th</sup> APAN Meetings and I also welcome delegates from APAN. I am certain there will be some fruitful interactions between QUESTnet and APAN delegates which will extend into the future.

Having this years conference in Cairns has brought home to many, the theme for the conference “Networking – Far and Wide”. Most of you have no doubt seen that Cairns is a vibrant and growing regional centre but the challenges of running this conference show that “far and wide” has degrees of just how far and just how wide.

This leads me initially to thank Telstra, one of the Platinum sponsors who have assisted in providing the wide area connectivity for the conference. While AARNet continues to grow and expand the Australian Research and Education Network, the continued support of carriers will always be important and is appreciated by the sector. The other Platinum sponsors are Cisco and Alcatel who are providing ongoing support for QUESTnet. The sponsors are listed on the website, in your programs and will be available on the exhibition floor. Please take advantage of the valuable opportunity to meet with them and discuss products and services. While the delegates flesh out this conference and the speakers provide the very important knowledge and stimulus, the sponsors are its backbone. Our special thanks to our platinum sponsors and we separately thank the gold, silver and bronze sponsors. All are important, sponsors, delegates and speakers.

A little history will put things in perspective for QUESTnet. QUESTnet started in 1981 after the first 10Mbps Ethernet in the southern hemisphere was installed at the University of Queensland. QUESTnet arose as an informal forum of the Universities in Queensland for their network developments. They had to develop the knowledge and skills of their own staff in these technologies to be able to proceed as there was no one who could teach them. So they arranged a series of technical meetings, forums and workshops to this end. QUESTnet also became the informal umbrella group for the development of intra-University networks, continuing with these dual roles for some 20 years. The staff development forums became the annual QUESTnet Winter Workshop which, in turn, grew into the QUESTnet Annual Conference, now one of the premier networking conferences in Australia attracting some 250 delegates each year.

By 1999, the development, operation and maintenance of the intra-university networks had become a major activity in itself and QUESTnet members decided to have a group focused on staff development and other areas of common interest and a separate sister organization to run and develop the network, the QRNO. QUESTnet has run a series of

“in-house” workshops and will continue to identify and expand on this staff development role. The business of these 2 organisations has grown and in 1999 we appointed our first Executive Officer, John Noad. John has been a valuable contributor in various roles since the inception of QUESTnet and will be greatly missed (again) when he retires (again) at the end of August. Thanks John. Look forward to golf, grandchildren, even more whale watching and some self indulgence.

Before inviting JCU's distinguished Chancellor to officially open the conference, I'll provide you with a brief background to his significant career and public contribution.

## **2. Chancellor Lt Gen John Grey**

Lt Gen John Grey has had a distinguished 47 year executive career in Australia's public sector. His contributions to public life prior to and in addition to his taking on the role of Chancellor at James Cook University from 1999 to date are too many to cover in the short time available. His continuous and active career path has been characterized by a succession of demanding appointments culminating in appointment to Australia's most senior Army executive position, Chief of Army from 1992 to 1995. As a result of this role, he managed Army's policy level affairs, total resources of 70,000 men and women and a \$2.2b annual budget. He received Australia's highest honour when appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) before leaving Canberra for a less bureaucratic life Cairns in 1995.

As well as his continuing role of Chancellor for JCU, John continues to maintain active participation on advisory boards, committees and industry task forces, notably the Far North Queensland Sugar Industry Task Force from 2000-2002. John has until very recently been a Director of Advance Cairns.

Earlier in his career, spanning 1976 to 1995 John had success at a national level in the delivery of tertiary education services for defense personnel as a member of faculty and then as Chief and Principal of the Australian Staff College.

It is with great pleasure that I invite Lt Gen John Grey, Chancellor of James Cook University and Cairns resident to officially open the QUESTnet 2004 Conference.

### **3. Prof Shigeki Goto**

Shigeki Goto is a Professor at Department of Computer Science, Waseda University, Japan. He received his B.S. and M.S. in Mathematics from the University of Tokyo. Prior to becoming a professor at Waseda University, he worked at NTT for many years. He gained his Ph.D in Information Engineering from the University of Tokyo.

He is a member of ACM and IEEE, and was a trustee of Internet Society from 1994 to 1997. He is a fellow of IPSJ (Information Processing Society Japan) and a trustee of Japan Society for Software Science and Technology from 1993 to 1994.

Professor Goto was a user of ARPAnet as a visiting scholar at Stanford University from 1984 to 1985. After returning to Japan, he was the first user of CISCO products. He became one of key members of JUNET (Japan Universities Network) in 1985. Since then, he has worked for the Internet community in Japan. He is a vice president of JPNIC and the chairman of APAN-JP.

Dr Goto is now the chairman of APAN, the non-profit international consortium of 13 primary member countries/economies of the Asia Pacific region. The consortium has a focus on coordinating and promoting network technology developments and advances in network-based applications and services. It also champions the development of an advanced networking environment for research and education communities in the Asia-Pacific region.

It is with great pleasure that I invite Prof Shigeki Goto to Chair the joint plenaries for QUESTnet 2004.