

**Proceedings of the  
Seventh Australian International Conference on  
SPEECH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

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## **SST-98 PROCEEDINGS**

Australian Speech Science and Technology Association 1998

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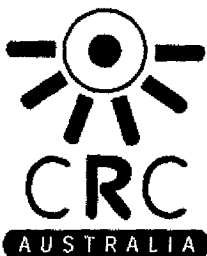
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## FOREWORD FROM ASSTA PRESIDENT

Welcome to SST-98 in Sydney. This is the 7th conference in the SST series which commenced with SST-86 in Canberra, then visited Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, and Adelaide in the intervening years. These conferences have become the flagship activity of ASSTA and indeed it is to the first of these that our Association owes its existence. In this year when we welcome the international community in our field to Australia by hosting the ICSLP '98 conference, it is interesting to note that the European Speech Communication Association, our sister organisation in that part of the world, was also born out of a conference initiative in 1987.

This year our SST conference is incorporated within the much larger ICSLP '98 conference in order to focus the energies of our modestly-sized community on a single event. However we hope that all long-term supporters will be able to feel the SST spirit, if not the intimacy of being surrounded by just 150 colleagues, within the larger event. In designing this joint event we have sought to maintain at least three of the qualities that we have promoted at our SST conferences: a spirit of acceptance and nurture of researchers at all levels and across all relevant disciplines; a technical programme that emphasises the multidisciplinary spread of the study of spoken language; and a touch of fun that identifies with our field (remember those spectrogram competitions that have become an SST feature).

The SST student day is our initiative to maintain the first of these qualities and we have been delighted that an enthusiastic team of senior researchers and students have grasped this vision. I commend this day to all who can enter into this same spirit of encouragement of the next generation of leaders in our field. The second SST quality is easily achieved owing to the similar aims of the ICSLP series, and for the third quality we will have to wait and see!

It is strongly anticipated that SST-2000 will carry the SST spirit forward into the new millennium when once again it will be a stand-alone conference building on all that has gone before.

On behalf of the executive committee,

Bruce Millar  
(President of ASSTA Inc.)

## FOREWORD FROM STUDENT DAY CO-CHAIRS

The road from new researcher to senior, established member of the scientific community is one paved with effort and application. It is also usually anything but smooth in the early days, with many false-starts and misdirections. These factors are particularly clear within the Australian speech research community where our small size and distance from the larger Asian, European and American research communities can engender feelings of isolation and loss of focus amongst new researchers.

Vital in combating these early difficulties is the cultivation of a sense of community, collaboration and involvement with other researchers.

The productive research laboratory atmosphere of a team of motivated postgraduate students supervised and mentored by a handful of senior researchers is one that time and again has produced the leaders in scientific fields. However such an environment is often not available to student researchers, many working in near isolation.

It is with these concerns, and such a model of scientific community that the SST Student Day has been constructed.

We hope that the casual, informal atmosphere of the day will allow student attendees to share their hopes, expectations, problems and latest work with one-another, establishing bonds and opportunities for collaboration that were not previously available. The mentors, senior members of our research community, will be acting in the role of 'benevolent supervisor for the day', and hence providing both immediate opportunities for the student (feedback on their presentation) but also less quantifiable gains: the widening of scope and potential for new interactions.

We look forward to meeting you on the day and sharing that bond of scientific curiosity which drives us all.

On behalf of the SST Student Day Committee

Michael Barlow &  
Frantz Clermont (SST Student Day Co-Chairs)



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