Welcome to ICAD from the Conference Co-Chairs
Stephen Barrass and David Worrall, Monday 4 July 2016

We would like to acknowledge the Ngunnawal people who are the traditional custodians of this land on which we are meeting, and pay respect to the Elders of the Ngunnawal Nation both past and present. We extend this respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in attendance today.

For the past 8 weeks in Canberra we have been counting down to this date, not only because it is the Australian Federal Election, but because it is ICAD 2016. Welcome to Canberra, the Capital City of Australia, which is only just 100 years old. It is one of a handful of "designed cities" in the world, alongside Washington and Brasilia. The designer, Sir Walter Burley Griffin, was a modernist who believed that the geometry of the city shaped the lives of its inhabitants, and the many roundabouts may also explain all the going round in circles we have experienced during the election campaign. When the winning design was announced the public were invited to suggest names for this new city, and some responses included Commonwealth Circular City, Federalia, Eden, Paradise, Harmony, Unison, Pacifica, Frazer Roo, Wheatwoolgold and Sydmeladperbriso (which is an amalgam of every other Australian capital). Finally, Canberra was declared the winner, which means 'meeting place' in the local indigenous Ngunnawal language. ICAD visitors will be welcomed with a "smoking ceremony" which is an indigenous Welcome to Ngunnawal Country on Monday evening. This welcome will be reiterated by an Aussie pub welcome at the Wig and Pen microbrewery with custom winter brews accompanied by Kangaroo pies and vegetarian pasties made from native Warrigal greens and Bush Tomatoes.

Since Canberra is a Design City it is very appropriate that the theme for ICAD this year is Sonic Information Design. This theme aims to integrate design as a method for research and discovery in the field of Auditory Display. The theme has grown out of a workshop at ICAD 2014 in Atlanta, and was developed further in a keynote at ICAD 2015 in Graz. Like other design disciplines, Sonic Information Design has the aspiration that artificial sounds may be designed to make the world a better place. Sonic Information Design takes a user-centred view of the relationship between artefacts, those that are affected by them, and the social contexts in which they occur. A Design orientation pays particular attention to user experience–including physical, cognitive, emotional, and aesthetic issues; the relationship between form, function, and content; and emerging concepts such as fun, playfulness and design futures. Practice-based research is considered as a generative process of exploration, speculation and discovery, with outcomes that can be provisional, contingent and aspirational, while aiming for richer, more situated understandings that lead to the advancement of knowledge and the proliferation of new realities.

The Keynotes for ICAD 2016 have been chosen to expand on this theme within the context of Auditory Display. Dr. Viveka Turnbull Hocking's design-led research engages cross-disciplinary conversations and collaborations through the area of design and the built environment. Dr. George Poonkhin Khut 's body-focussed artworks use biofeedback technologies to re-frame experiences of embodiment, health and subjectivity. A/Prof. Adrian KC Lee's research investigates the neural network involved in auditory scene analysis that provides a basis for Stream-based

Sonification where the theory of Auditory Scene Analysis is used to design Auditory Displays. Prof. Simon Carlile, Senior Director of Research at Starkey Hearing Technologies, will present Industry Insight into innovations in Hearables which extend hearing aid technology to new applications.

The papers programme includes 24 peer reviewed papers which will be presented beginning on Monday, and a Posters session on Tuesday afternoon. On Tuesday evening social activities continue with the ICAD jam session at Smith's Alternative Book Store.

On Wednesday we have introduced a recreational break, to foster social networking while exploring the recreational and cultural aspects of Canberra, or to take a collaborative workshop. The ICAD Concert on Wednesday evening will bring everyone back together to swap experiences. Local attractions include Old and New Parliament House, the National Museum of Australia, the National Gallery of Australia, or the National Portrait Gallery where keynote George Khut will present a workshop on Neurofeedback and Contemplative Interaction. Other workshops include collaborating in a proposal for a Hearables application, designing your own Computer Knitted Scarf from data patterns, programming the Mozzi wearable sonification synthesiser, learning Csound+Python, and 3D panning software for multi-speaker arrays.

The concert will be open to the general public, with pieces that explore emerging themes of mobile platforms and collaborative sonification through works for an iPad Ensemble, mobile phones, audience interaction on their own mobile devices, a sonification of Antarctic datasets on four Music Boxes, hearing genes of hearing on four clay ubang drums, and a live electronic performance of atomIc data. A public exhibition of sound installations around the School of Music includes the Pacific Bell Tower which chimes to resonate the seismic activity around the Pacific on the hour, Terramomentum where blindfolded listeners lie on the floor to hear 5 subwoofers emit audifications of earthquakes, an interactive sonification of astronomical data encoded in light variations, a sonification of scribbly-gum markings, and 3D printed acoustic objects constructed from blood pressure data.

The Banquet will provide a social space to discuss the days activities and the concert. The venue is A. Baker which is a highly regarded restaurant in walking distance from the School of Music. The seasonal menu is sourced from the Canberra district and includes local wines. It is the Truffle Season in Canberra, and who knows, we may get lucky.

The conference papers programme will continue on Thursday, and conclude with the traditional open-mic session that afternoon. Then, if you are feeling fit you can join the ICAD snow bus for a one day return trip to the Australian Alps, to ski through the snow-gums. Your ICAD registration includes a 'data beanie' knitted from possum fur and designed to keep your head warm in the frosty mid winter mornings in Canberra. This beanie is computer knitted from punch-cards that encode data logged from seals diving under the antarctic. The ski trip will be your opportunity to test the ICAD data beanie in earnest as protection against the cold and snow in downhill skiing conditions ! We hope you have a great time at ICAD 2016 in Canberra.