Welcome to the 20th Australian Software Engineering Conference. Since 1986 ASWEC has been a unique forum that spans academic research and industrial experience in software engineering. Although ASWEC began as a regional conference it now attracts submissions from all around the world and boasts an international programme committee.

This year 79 research paper submissions were made to the conference with authors from numerous countries including Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, China, Brazil, France, Finland, Germany, Pakistan, the USA, Taiwan, Iran, Malaysia, Japan, Romania, Sweden, Ireland, Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Guyana. Each submission was peer-reviewed in full by between 2 and 5 committee members, with an average of 3.2 reviews per paper. Ultimately 36 papers were accepted for publication in the research proceedings. They cover a wide variety of technical topics including requirements development, program derivation, simulation, testing, coding techniques, estimation, metrics and component-based software engineering.

I wish to thank all the authors who submitted research papers, without whom this conference would not be possible, the Research Programme Committee, for responding to my many nagging emails about reviewing deadlines, and the additional reviewers, for volunteering their time to help assess the submissions. I also wish to thank everyone on the Organising Committee for their assistance, especially the General Chairs, Paul Strooper and David Carrington, for providing the benefit of their prior experience with ASWEC.

Thanks to the efforts of all of these individuals I am certain that ASWEC 2009 will be both entertaining and informative.

Colin Fidge
Research Programme Chair, ASWEC 2009