

REGISTRATION IS FREE!

The talk will be followed by light refreshments and an opportunity to meet the speaker.

National ICT Australia invites you to a talk presented as part of the Victoria Research Laboratory Seminar Series. Thursday August 4, 2005

Details available online at
<http://www.ee.unimelb.edu.au/research/nicta/seminars/vrl/index.html>

When:
4-5pm, Thursday August 4, 2005

RSVP:
Email vrlss@nicta.com.au
By Monday, August 1, 2005

Where:
Theatre 4 – Alan Gilbert Bldg
161 Barry Street (cnr Grattan St)
University of Melbourne
MELWAYS Map 2B Ref C8



Public Parking is available at an hourly rate at the University Square car park. Enter via Berkeley Street. Local street parking is also available.

Robin Eckermann Principal, Eckermann & Associates

The Looming Last-Mile Crisis

ABSTRACT: Australia has become a laggard in its use of broadband technology, consistently sliding over recent years to a Dec'04 ranking of 21st amongst 30 OECD countries. The gap between leading countries is exacerbated if one adopts a definition of broadband that is more in line with the leading countries (eg: 2+ Mbps). This presentation will discuss the reasons for Australia's disappointing performance. It will argue why alarm bells should be ringing, and outline some of the infrastructure-related challenges that need to be addressed if Australia is to avoid being relegated to a broadband banana republic.

BIOGRAPHY: Although a graduate in Computing and Philosophy, Robin Eckermann has spent the last decade specialising in the field of Broadband Communications. Between 1996 and 2000 he led the establishment of TransACT in Canberra. This network delivers a rich array of triple play services to some 20,000 customers over an advanced fibre-to-the-kerb architecture (with VDSL giving 52 Mbps per customer for the final link). It is widely regarded as Australia's most advanced broadband network. Over the past few years he has been consulting with clients throughout Australia and overseas to pioneer business models that can support the investment required for fibre-to-the-home deployments. Robin also serves as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Canberra.

