Macintosh counts at Garvan Institute

" *The ease of use, flexibility and the meaningfulness of the data has had a huge impact. Before the entry point was manual, handwritten journals. Now the point of entry is the Mac.* "

The Garvan Institute in Sydney is a world leader in research into new treatments and causes of breast cancer, osteoporosis, diabetes and neurological diseases. As a medical research organisation dependent on government and community support, it has to monitor all financial aspects of its operations.

To improve purchase management, cost tracking and accountability, Garvan has introduced Sapphire financial management software for its administration which runs on 10 of the 150 Apple Macintosh personal computers.

Soon the network will be extended to cater for 400 users, and Sapphire's use expanded to include automated ordering of supplies directly by scientists.

"It is a purchasing-driven system that produces much more meaningful data and significantly eliminates paperwork," explains Matthew Cranitch, Manager, Finance and Accounting.
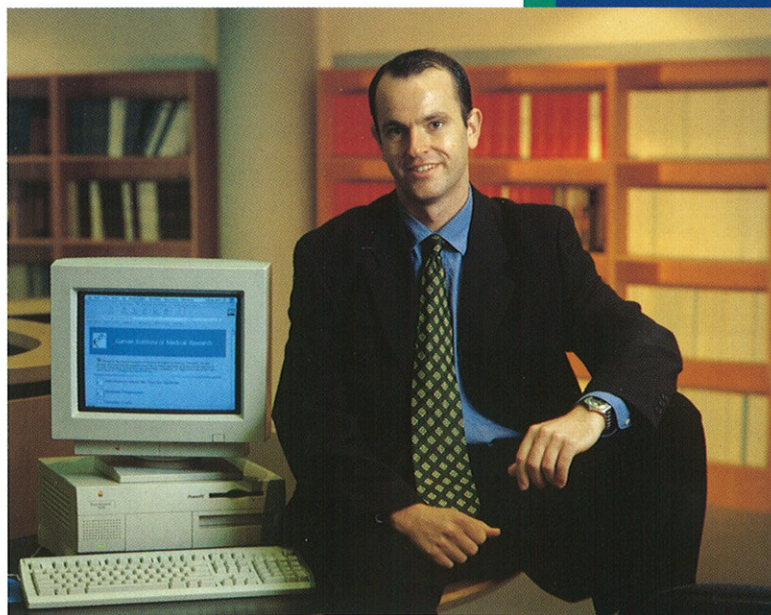
"The revolutionary aspect of Sapphire running on the Macs is the availability of data that gives the program manager not only a full description of what has been ordered, but how many and by whom. Before, they just got the total cost.

"The second great benefit is cost tracking. We have about 50 research projects worth several million dollars. People need to be able to see a report on where the money is spent for each project, so it's very important to be able to track that expenditure."

When stage two of the Sapphire implementation rolls out, Garvan scientists will be able to requisition everything from test tubes and syringes to $40,000 pieces of scientific equipment via the Mac, further streamlining the ordering process and greatly improving efficiency, accountability and the quality of information available to project heads.

Payroll is also done in Sapphire, eliminating the need to transfer enormous paper journals to Garvan's in-house system every month.

"The ease of use, flexibility and the meaningfulness of the data has had a huge impact. Like the Macs, Sapphire is a system that is powerful, flexible, graphical and easy to use," says Mr Cranitch.

Small Business *Success Stories*

LB1441

LawCover running efficiently with Macs

" *The solicitors who handle the claims find the Macs much easier to use, and I find the Macintosh network much easier to support than Windows.* "

LawCover, which provides compulsory professional indemnity cover to approximately 5,500 legal principals/sole practitioners in New South Wales and 200 in the Australian Capital Territory, is reaping the benefits of a powerful financial management system running on Apple Macintosh personal computers in its Sydney office.

The Sapphire software runs concurrently on eight of the organisation's 30 Macintosh personal computers, handling thousands of transactions every week, from claims, premium collection and cheque runs, to customised forms and letters to clients.

LawCover greatly increased efficiency by tailoring Sapphire to process the collection of professional indemnity payments from solicitors and to automatically facilitate their notification as being covered for professional indemnity insurance to the Law Societies of NSW and ACT.

"Previously, the Law Societies collected those contributions and passed them on to us. It is more efficient to do it directly through Sapphire," says LawCover computer Manager, Stephen McIntosh. "Sapphire also has the auditing and data integrity we require. Once data is posted, it's locked." LawCover prints and issues cheque runs which can number in the thousands through Sapphire. All deposit slips are generated directly out of Sapphire, enabling LawCover to deposit large lump sums and reduce deposit costs. "It has saved us large amounts of money on bank charges." says Mr. McIntosh. With Sapphire running on the Macs, balancing at the end of the month only takes a few hours, and the last end of year rollover was completed in the record time of one day.

"Normally you have to go to the source of the data and export it to another application. With Sapphire, everything can be integrated in the one system on the Macintosh personal computers that are so easy to use."