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Preface

The field of artificial life (Alife) is a rapidly emerging area that draws on expertise from computer science, biology, psychology, to name a few. In essence it is the study of systems related to life, its processes and evolution. These systems commonly use computer model simulations. The past decade has seen an increasing stream of scientific articles devoted to the exploration of Alife.

The Australian Conference on Artificial Life (ACAL) series is a testament to the above. It is a biannual event that originated in 2001 as the "Inaugral Workshop on Artificial Life" as part of the 14$^{\text{th}}$ Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence. ACAL 2007 received 70 quality submissions of which 34 were accepted for oral presentation in the conference. Each paper was peer reviewed by two or three members of the Program Committee. Apart from Australian researchers, the conference attracted participants from a number of countries across Europe, America, Asia-Pacific and Africa.

ACAL 2007 was fortunate to have four distinguished speakers in Alife to address the conference. They were David Abramson (Monash University), Kenneth A. De Jong (George Mason University), K.C. Tan (National University of Singapore) and Rodney Walker (Queensland University of Technology).

The organizers wish to thank a number of people and institutions for their support of this event and publication. Importantly we would like to acknowledge the effort and contributions of the Program Committee members and advisory board. Our sponsors were: The Australian Computer Society, the ARC Complex Open Systems Research Network, Bond University, The University of New South Wales (Australian Defence Force Academy), University of Canberra, Australian National University and the Gold Coast City Council. Their financial and in-kind support ensured the costs were minimized for attendees. Finally, the editors must pay tribute to the team at Springer.

We hope to repeat the success of ACAL 2007 with ACAL 2009. The venue of this event will be announced in 2008.

December 2007

Marcus Randall
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Janet Wiles

Organization

ACAL 2007 was organized by the School of Information Technology, Bond University in association with the University of New South Wales (Australian Defence Force Academy) and the University of Queensland.

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