



The South West Chapter of the Australian Computer Society chairman Chad Roberts has helped usher in a new era for South West information technology.

Bunbury's IT crowd gets its own voice

By **LEIGH RITCHIE**

MEMBERS of the South West Information and Communications Industry finally have their own local chapter.

The South West Chapter of the Australian Computer Society already boasts 60 members and has managed to acquire a nationally recognised professional to be their inaugural speaking guest.

Society chairman Chad Roberts said the representative body is the profession's public voice, the guardian of its professional ethics and standards and who the Federal Government consults with about ICT policy.

"What we are aiming to do with the local chapter is boost ICT skills in the

South West area and bring international and national speakers to Bunbury," he said.

Mr Roberts said their guest, Strategic Systems Software Process specialist Dwayne Read, would be talking about software developments and methodology.

SWACS director and Edith Cowan University IT lecturer Viv Campbell said the university had been running IT courses for the past 20 years and the industry continued to grow.

"Our numbers are growing to a point where we can do this sort of thing," she said.

"It's absolutely fantastic – we haven't had any of this sort of thing before so we're very excited."

She said Mr Read was a specialist in Agile, the recent attempts by the industry to be more flexible and more user friendly.

"There's a history of IT not being user friendly, with millions spent on developing projects only to be thrown away," she said.

Mr Read will speak at the local chapter's meeting next Wednesday at 6pm at ECU, to be followed by a networking function with other professionals for members.

For more information about the speech next week or the society contact the Perth office on 9470 4878.