



LOGIN

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BLOGGING IN THE CLASSROOM

What is a blog? It is an easily created and easily updateable website. It allows for instantaneous publishing of content to the internet, and it also provides the ability for others to comment on the content published. Blogs are written by many and varied members of the global community, from primary school students, through to politicians, and refugees fleeing their war-torn countries.

In considering the use of blogs as a classroom strategy, I first looked at the curriculum I was teaching and thought about how best that could be enhanced by using blogs. My students were already using a regular journal to write about their reading and viewing experiences. This seemed to be a logical and seamless way to transition from paper to an online writing environment.

I think it is vital to keep in mind with any technology tool that you use, that it should be well integrated with the outcomes to be achieved. In the past, I think technology has often been used for its novelty value, and while this certainly engages students, I strongly believe that the educational authenticity of what they are engaged in should be the most important driver in our planning.

I spent time reading other blogs by both teachers and students. I also read a terrific resource by Will Richardson, [Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts and Other Powerful Web Tools for Classrooms](#).

Checking out what is already out there is a great way to find out what works and what doesn't before you even start. This was time well spent as I was able to plan my approach very carefully and hopefully, I think, avoid a number of pitfalls.

One of these issues, when working online, is of course the security of the students' identities. I formulated a letter to parents which explained the aim of my blogging project, and outlined the measures I had taken to reduce the risk of students' identities being exposed, as well as the moderation of incoming comments that may be considered inappropriate.

In setting up the actual blogs, (and I used the edublogs and learnerblogs provided as a free resource to educators – thanks to James Farmer –), I made sure that the students' blogs only included their first name and surname initial. I have structured the blogs with mine as the main blog (called Expressions in English) with links to the class blogs from this. Each class blog then has links to each student's learnerblog. The blogs do not contain any personal information about the students. I have also not included any identifying information about the school that I work at. What I have included is a contact page that allows people to email me if they wish to find out more. So, in beginning blogging with the students, I needed to explain to them what we were going to be doing and the purpose of doing our journal differently. Once they were in front of a computer, obviously their interest increased, but it took them a little while to get used to doing their journal this way, and to learn the word processing package that comes with the blog (WordPress).

One thing that I found was vital to a productive blogging lesson, was to provide clear and structured tasks for them to do each time. I have had to 'train' them into using the technology as simply another tool for their learning, rather than as a recreational activity. Many of the students wanted to be let loose to do whatever they wanted on the machines, and I had to be quite firm in insisting that they stay on-task. This obviously requires close monitoring. Once the novelty wore off, they tended to do the right thing. It helps if you allow a little free time in the last five to ten minutes so that they can get that out of their system.

Another thing to consider is that not all students have access to computers and internet at home. It did take extra time for those less experienced students to assimilate the technology, but they were still just as keen, if not more so, due to their lack of access at home. I have not set homework tasks yet for this reason. I do not want to discriminate against those who do not have the access, but at the same time, I can see the value of expanding this experience beyond the classroom. I plan to set some tasks for home soon, but with less emphasis on it having to be done as a compulsory thing.

I have struggled at times to gain computer access, as I only have three workstations in my classroom and need to book into labs to tackle the blogging effectively. I think it works much better to have the whole class blogging together when they are first learning how to do it. Once they are independent and can be sent to work at individual workstations, then this allows more flexibility in your lessons, and they don't all have to be blogging at the same time in the same place. Obviously, those students who have access at home can also choose to add to their blogs outside of the classroom environment, and some of my students have already begun to do this.

So far the students have taken to blogging like ducks to water. Now that the blogs are becoming more interactive with comments linking them to a real audience, the students are really fired up about what they are writing about. Not only that, but they are reading each other's work with more interest and intensity than before and responding more intelligently and thoughtfully to it. The commenting part of blogging is an essential part of it. The students need to know that the world outside of the classroom is reading what they are writing. I introduced the idea of commenting slowly, first getting them to comment on their classmate's blogs. Then I increased this to commenting on the blogs of students in my other classes. Once they were comfortable with this, and were doing it appropriately, I showed them some links to student blogs from around the world and asked them to write some comments on those blogs.

I guess the main key to a successful try at blogging is to take it slowly and carefully and to plan exactly what you want to do with it. My aim now is to increase teachers' awareness of what blogging is and how it can really improve your students' interest and engagement in the lesson content. I am still working on improving their efforts with spelling and punctuation, but they are more interested in making it right, knowing that a world-wide audience may check it out.

If all this sounds amazing and exciting to you, and a whole bunch of work, you are right, but what is even more intimidating or exciting (depending on how you look at it) is that blogging is just the tip of the iceberg. There are lots of new technologies emerging that are making the internet a more interactive place to hang out. These tools, known as Web 2.0, are being created at an amazing rate, and by the time you read this, I am sure there will be even more.

My next project is podcasting. What's that? Amateur radio broadcast over the internet. And I just can't wait!

Check out my blog at <http://msanderson.edublogs.org>

Kelly Anderson – Secondary English Teacher

Kelly Anderson will present "Blogging in the Classroom" at the ECAWA 2006 State Conference.



Login is the journal of the Educational Computing Association of WA. All contributions should be sent via email to the editor login@ecawa.asn.au. These can be in the form of original articles, letters, reviews and reports.

ECAWA Committee 2005

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From the Editor

This publication relies on the support of the ECWA community who have always willingly supplied articles and reports to inform their colleagues of what is happening here in Western Australia in regard to best practice in ICT. I look forward to working with this community and ask that you consider sharing that experience with our membership, by providing reports, of whatever size to be included in Login.

Val Baird vbaird@inet.net.au

The 2006 ECWA Educator of the Year

Each year the Australian Council for Computers in Education (ACCE) and the Australian Computer Society (ACS) host the National Educator of the Year Award. This award recognises exemplary educational practice involving the use of computer technology in the teaching and learning environment and recognises the efforts of ECWA members who are contributing very significantly to the use of learning technologies in their schools.

Those nominated must be 'Individual' ECWA members who, through the use of computer technology, have made an outstanding contribution to the educational advancement of their students and have had a significant positive effect on their colleagues, both at school level and within professional organizations

This award focuses on the efforts of school-based educators, and nominees must be based in a school and considered a member of that school's teaching staff.

The ECWA Educator of the Year becomes the Western Australian nominee for the National Educator of the Year Award.

2006 ECWA Leader of the Year

ECWA also recognises that university based educators, administrators in schools, district and regional personnel and educators attached to offices of school systems also contribute to learning, schools and the professional computer education community.

To acknowledge the work of these people, the Educational Computing Association of Western Australia (Inc) is calling for nominations for the 2006 ECWA Leader of the Year Award.

ECWA Leader of the Year Award pays tribute to the work of educational leaders and innovators. The award recognises significant advocacy, support and promotion of the use of information and communication technologies in education. Typically a candidate will be a leader / mentor / advisor to a school or broader educational community group, and generally their major role is not as a classroom teacher. Candidates will have had a distinguished career and proven inspirational achievement in leading the ICT in education community.

The ECWA Leader of the Year will also be the Western Australian nominee for a national award, the ACCE / ACS Award for Outstanding Leadership in the use of Information and Communication Technology in Education.

The nomination period for both the ECWA Educator of the Year Award for 2006 and for the ECWA Leader of the Year Award for 2006 remains open until the 20th of October, 2006. Detailed information, selection criteria and a separate application form for each award are on ECWeb. Please follow the links from www.ecawa.asn.au

Nominations must reach ECWA by 5.00pm on Friday, October 20th, 2006

ECWA Educators of the Year

2005	Val Baird
2004	Trevor Galbraith*
2003	Mark Weber
2002	Mark Stephens
2001	Harry Clements-Shepherd*
2000	Ray Cilia*
1999	Jim Fuller*
1998	Leeanne Sampey
1997	Mike Leishman*
1996	Greg Fawell
1995	Paul Dench

**Also ACCE Educator of the Year*

From the President

The last few months have certainly been interesting and very busy, with a great deal of the focus being on the final years of school.

Meetings convened by the Minister for Education and Training, Ljiljana Ravlich, that included among others, the Director General, the Director of the Curriculum Council, the Director of Catholic Education and the representatives of the professional associations concerned with Phase II and Phase III subjects provided ECAWA with an opportunity to put forward the comments, concerns, suggestions and requests of members directly to these decision makers. There have already been a number of positive outcomes, one of which is that ECAWA will now have official representation on two additional groups involved in developing and refining courses of study.

Some weeks ago ECAWA members were sent the URL to a copy of 'Australian Certificate of Education - exploring a way forward', a 222 page report by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), commissioned by the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST). ACER's brief was to 'investigate and report on models and implementation arrangements for an Australian Certificate of Education (ACE) for the final years of secondary school.'

The report writers 'reached the conclusion that the most desirable long-term outcome would be the emergence of a single Australian Certificate of Education awarded by each of the Australian states and territories in place of the existing nine certificates.' Although this conclusion may not have been unexpected, it is worth noting that the report recommends the introduction of a national test of a small number of 'general skills' - to be known as the Key Capabilities Assessment (KCA). Initially it is proposed that the KCA include reading literacy/verbal reasoning, mathematical literacy/quantitative reasoning, written English and ICT literacy.

ECAWA representatives contributed to the submission on the report co-ordinated by PTCWA the Professional Teaching Council of Western Australia (formerly APEA) of which ECAWA is an affiliate.

Planning for the ECAWA 2006 State Conference, which will see us return to the Atrium Hotel in Mandurah on Sunday, November 5th and Monday, November 6th has continued, and there is a wonderful line up of Keynote Addresses and Concurrent Presentations to look forward to. Just be sure to register early! Because the Conference involves hotel accommodation the Early Bird date cannot be extended this year. Also, accommodation will be allocated in the order in which registrations are received. Besides, the Early Bird Prize is too good to miss, and only those members who register by the 14th of September are eligible to go into that prize draw.

The **Annual General Meeting** of the association will be held on Sunday, November 5th. All the positions on the ECAWA Committee come up for election at that meeting. Please consider offering yourself for election. The current ECAWA Committee is a very hardworking and dedicated group, but it has become obvious that more members are needed to share the work especially at a time like this when we all seem to be asked to do more and more in our 'day jobs.'

It is important that the ECAWA Committee is comprised of members from all the school systems and sectors, that the interests all members, from kindergarten and pre primary teachers concerned with the integration of ICT into their classroom practise, right through to the teachers of senior school computing subjects, are represented, and that non metropolitan based members continue to be represented.

Committee members need to have a strong commitment to working to make a positive contribution to the work of ECAWA. Please consider what you might bring to your association.



As I have mentioned before, over the past year the Committee has been looking at the **ECAWA Constitution** and considering ways that this needs to be updated to bring ECAWA's documents and practices into line with the current standards, to comply with the relevant Act of Parliament, to protect the association into the future and facilitate the good management of the association by the Committee and to safe guard the rights of members.

This is discussed more fully elsewhere in LOGIN, and will be the subject of some information that will be distributed to members shortly.

It is imperative that all members make the time to read the Proposed Rules that will be available on ECASite and comment on any matter that needs clarification or causes concern as soon as possible.

I hope to see many of you at the ECAWA 2006 State Conference in Mandurah, if not before.

Lynley McKernan
email: president@ecawa.asn.au

Annual General Meeting Join the ECAWA Committee

The Annual General Meeting of the Educational Computing Association of Western Australia Inc will be held at the Atrium Hotel in Mandurah on Sunday the 5th of November.

All voting members of ECAWA are encouraged to attend this important event, where the ECAWA Committee for 2007 will be elected and an revision of the ECAWA Constitution will be considered.

A formal notice of the meeting, nomination form and other information will be sent to each member at their address as registered with the ECAWA Secretary in the lead up to the AGM.

Please consider what insights and abilities you may be able to bring to the ECAWA Committee in the year ahead.

Registering for an ECAWA Event

A registration form is provided for all ECAWA events where any payment needs to be made.

When completed, the registration form may be used as an invoice for purposes of payment (but is not a TAX invoice).

The completed registration form may be posted with a cheque to the post office box address on the form, or, if you are paying by credit card, the completed form may be faxed to the number on the form, or attached to an email message and sent to the published email address.

The ECAWA Treasurer issues receipts for all money received, and these receipts are posted as soon as the payment has been cleared, except in cases where payment for attendance at an event is received shortly before the event. In these cases the receipt will be available at the event.

Register for the ECAWA 2006 State Conference now!

To download a copy of the registration form from the conference web site, follow the links from www.ecawa.asn.au or contact the Conference Convenor, Gillian Skeggs at gillianskeggs@ecawa.asn.au

Building Learning Communities

I recently travelled to Harvard to attend Project Zero and The Alan November Building Learning Communities 06 Conference. This was mind-blowing in its pursuit of ways to engage the “digital native” by we “digitally challenged immigrants”. The keynotes and session presenters were of one in exhorting us to harness the power of blogs, wikis, rss feeds, podcasting etc to make education meaningful and seamless in a world where these concepts are the norm, not the extraordinary for our students. Our learners shouldn't have to switch off and change gears to enter our world of education we need to switch on and gear up to enter their world. I will give an example

I have just been given an assignment on “poverty in India.” I set up a folder on my blog (an active web page where I can make comments and receive ideas from other) with and rss feeds from reliable sources. Eg The New York Times provides rss feeds as do many reliable sources. These feeds have had a refined search applied and into my blog I will receive any articles that are written over the duration of my assignment. I can also set up similar feeds from FlickrR, a photo archive, and from other people who may be researching this topic (social bookmarking). When I return to write my assignment I have current, relevant source material to evaluate. This is all on my blog, I don't need to go searching for it. Comparison headlines from around the world (different sides of a conflict?) would make an interesting study for many areas of the school.

Podcasting provides students a chance to publish to the world. Imagine the extra effort and pride that goes into a piece of work that the world can see. After making a podcast be it just sound or video as well we just need somewhere to store it and the iTunes store will provide a

link. We should be all checking the educational podcasts that are available free at the iTunes store. Imagine the power for our language students of listening to their lessons on their iPods or even more, listening to themselves on their iPods.

FlickR provides a storage facility for any digital art work. Here you can store as well as display. Digital portfolios can be displayed and parents, grandparents and friends can become involved in the learning of our students.

There are many sites where you can set up your own blog eg bloglines and I think that we should all be entering this community to experience what for our students is becoming a way of life. I recommend Will Richardson's book Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts and other Powerful Web Tools for Classrooms a must for all educators who would like some more information on this world of education.

The final morning of the conference was spent at the MIT Media Lab in an area known as The Cube. I attended a session under the guidance of Mitch Reznick in the Lifelong Kindergarten. For logo fans this was seventh heaven. Mitch and his team have been working on a new programming language called Scratch due for release late in 2006. This is a type of Logo without the angst of syntax. Visible slices of code fit together like colour coded jigsaw pieces and are held together in a visible control bracket. These pieces all snap together and can be pulled apart with ease and the variables changed. Students can program to their hearts content from lesson one with little guidance. Even us hardened critics/fanatics who have seen Logo develop couldn't tear ourselves away for morning tea. This was certainly programming without pain. This product will be released later this year and best of all, it will be free.

One of the other projects that they have been working on was the “PicoCricket”. If you have students interested in robotics then the Cricket is for you. It is about a three centimetre square cube that has four input/output ports that can be used for sensors and motors. These crickets can be programmed in a language similar to Scratch. The program is beamed to them by a control brick attached to the computer. The cricket can then be built into projects that spark the imagination and stimulate thinking.

Some of the interesting projects were:

A birthday cake that sang happy birthday when the candles were blown out.

A cuddly kitten that purred when stroked.

A toy car that went right or left when commanded.

A windmill that went faster the louder we spoke.

A hat that lit up when the wearer was too noisy.

The cricket comes boxed with a craft kit and although I loved it, I thought it was a bit pricey. It would be much better if you could buy the crickets separately and maybe this is a possibility for the future.

This conference certainly gave me many concrete ways to apply the principles learnt at Project Zero. The two courses were a perfect meld of the theoretical and practical. I will be forever grateful to St Mary's for their foresight and willingness to invest in our students' future by providing me with this opportunity and ECAWA for furnishing the forum in which to share.

Lynne Malone

(Lynne will tell us more about what she has discovered when she speaks at the ECAWA 2006 State Conference)

The Intel Museum Santa Clara

The Intel Museum in Santa Clara has free entry and has a program designed to help children and adults learn about computer chip science while completing fun, hands on activities. This would be such a great place to take interested students and I highly recommend your visit if you are anywhere close by.

Some of the activities available to visitors were



- An oversized binary code exhibit, where you enter the binary code to spell your name. I watched some children be entertained for ages.
- A giant microprocessor two metres by two metres that tracked the information for the sum $2+3$. It was most interesting watching the code running around to all section of the microprocessor with an entertaining commentary explaining what was happening in each part.
- An exhibit where you ran your hand between two sensors as quickly as possible – the sensors counted time in nanoseconds.

- A hands on exhibit testing conductivity of different materials.
- A bandwidth demonstration where balls (packets of information) were passed through pipes of varying width (bandwidth) to show the different speeds at which the information travelled.
- Lights and switches to demonstrate and/or gates.

These were just some of the informative and fun activities that ranged from the historical to the scientific. The Intel Museum is a place to experience high-tech up close.

Lynne Malone

ECAWA 2006 State Conference

Exhibit, Explain, Explore
Sunday 5th and Monday 6th November
The Atrium Hotel, Mandurah



The Educational Computing Association
of Western Australia (Inc)

We invite you to join us at the ECAWA 2006 State Conference for two days of exciting professional learning and professional development opportunities, networking and sharing of information about ICT in education in a relaxed and friendly environment at the Atrium Hotel in Mandurah.

The Educational Computing Association of Western Australia's 2006 State Conference will be held on Sunday, November 5th and Monday, November 6th, 2006, at the Atrium Hotel in Mandurah.

Situated just 80km south of Perth, the Atrium Hotel is conveniently located just a short walk from sheltered beaches and the Mandurah town centre. The Atrium Hotel is built around an indoor heated swimming pool and spa, with cocktail bar, restaurant and conference facilities. The hotel features self contained apartments with balconies, 24 hour reception, on site parking, television and free in-house movies, direct dial ISD/ STD telephones, laundry facilities, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, sauna, bbq area, games room, and half court tennis courts.

The Conference Program will incorporate a number of keynote addresses as well as concurrent presentations. A new strand in the program this year will focus on the new Courses of Study Applied Information Technology and Computer Science.

An interesting Trade Exhibition will give delegates an opportunity to examine the latest products and meet the representatives of some of our sponsors, and once again, many sponsors will be giving great prizes.

If you know of a business or product you'd like to see represented, please pass the details to Gillian Skeggs at gillianskeggs@ecawa.asn.au

More details about the Conference will be published on ECAWeb as they become available. Follow the links from www.ecawa.asn.au

If you have any queries about the Conference, please contact Gillian Skeggs at gillianskeggs@ecawa.asn.au

BYO Computer

Thanks to our generous supporter EFTel, a wireless network will operate throughout the Conference venue. This will provide presenters and delegates

who have wireless enabled computers with access to the Conference Network as well as to the internet. Please bring your notebook computer to use in any of the 'hands on' workshops.

As the Conference approaches presenters will list any software that you will need to use in their workshop and will indicate if this may be downloaded from a particular website or if it will be available from the ICT Support Team at the Conference.

Please check that you will be able to install software and connect hardware to your computer at the Conference. If you use a school owned computer you may need to discuss this with the technical support staff at your school.

Also, be sure that each piece of equipment that you bring to the Conference is clearly labelled with your name and contact telephone number so that it can be returned quickly if it strays. Please also label any cables, powerboards, etc.

Prizes! Prizes! Prizes!

Our sponsors have donated some great prizes again this year. Entry is open to all Conference Delegates be present at the draw to win . . .

- **Paramount Business Supplies** a fully ergonomic gaslift chair valued at \$200.00

- **Folios International** Win tailor made Digital Portfolio creation software for your school. Folio Maker is a unique tool providing a simple and cost effective method of creating multimedia student portfolios on CD ROM. The prize includes all design work and 50 annual student licences to the value of \$600.00

- **Lego** win a brand new LEGO NXT Generation Robot and Software to be released in Australia mid-September 2006 valued at over \$500.00

- **Microsoft Australia** Win one of two copies of Student 2006 or Encarta Premium Library 2006 from Microsoft Australia

- **Ideal Resources** win a \$250.00 software voucher for your primary school to spend on software from www.ideal-resources.com.au

Hurry to secure Early Bird Registration for the ECAWA Conference!

An Early Bird discount is available for registrations received before the close of business on **Thursday the 14th of September**. Early Bird Registration is \$330 for members and \$395 for non members. This includes two full days of great professional development and professional learning opportunities, shared accommodation on the Sunday night, breakfast on Monday morning and the ECAWA Conference Dinner as well as all other meals through out the conference.

One day registration is also available. The 'non members' registration includes a 12 month individual membership of ECAWA, entitling you to participate in a variety of professional learning opportunities through out the year at 'member' rates.

After the Early Bird offer closes, Registration will be \$370 for members and \$435 for non members. So hurry get your registration form in before **Thursday the 14th of September**.

Education Students' Conference Discount

The ECAWA Conference is a wonderful opportunity for education students, and the Conference Committee is pleased to be able to offer full time unwaged students who register by **Thursday the 14th of September** a discount on their Conference registration fees. Please check the Registration Form for details.

Conference Coordinator

Enquiries to Gillian Skeggs, Conference Coordinator, at gillianskeggs@ecawa.asn.au or call 0402 005 049.

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The Educational Computing Association
of Western Australia (Inc)

John Treloar

*Adobe Systems
Pacific, Education
Director, Asia Pacific*



In the role of Director, Asia Pacific, John Treloar's key responsibilities include major whole of country and state-wide educational training, curriculum and software programs, Tertiary Institution Site Licenses and development of a common, manageable Education offering across the Asia Pacific Region.

John has a strong background in the Information Technology industry, and has held several senior roles with Microsoft in Australia, including Corporate Marketing Director, Regional Marketing Manager, as well as Education Sales and Marketing Manager. Two years spent in Paris as Microsoft's European Business Development Manager was a real highlight of John's career and added even more to his already broad skill set.

Besides working for Macromedia as Managing Director for Australia/New Zealand, John Treloar is also a partner in the Internet e-commerce business. John Treloar's tertiary education was at Charles Sturt University, Deakin University and Riverina College of Advanced Education, and he holds a Bachelor of Education and a Graduate Diploma in Computer Education.

John Treloar will present a keynote address and make several concurrent presentations throughout the conference exploring 'What Kids Do' – Communication and Collaboration; How Kids do What They Do; Blogging

Chirp Lim

ECAWA is grateful for the support provided to the ECAWA 2006 State Conference by Adobe Systems Pacific and in particular John Treloar, Education Director, Asia Pacific, who will deliver a Keynote Address and make several presentations in the Concurrent programme of the Conference.



Craig Renshaw

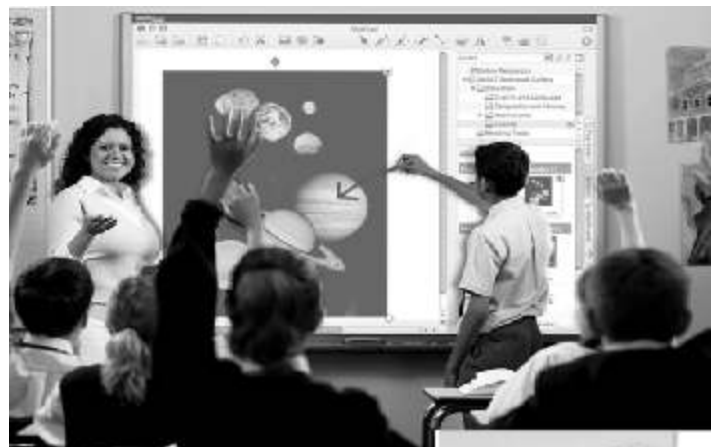
AV Media Systems



Craig Renshaw is back in Perth after spending time in Queensland. Craig, who previously lived in Western Australia for 6 years, has returned to Perth as the Director of AV Media Systems (WA), and is now based in Floreat.

Although AV Media Systems is a newly formed company in Western Australia, it has been designing and installing audio visual systems in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria for many years and so the local company is supported by the expertise and purchasing power of a national team.

AV Media Systems specialises in providing and installing audio visual equipment and control systems for corporate, government and education applications, from a small boardroom fit-out that involves installing a projector and screen to a large lecture theatre fit-out, installing speakers, projectors, screens and control systems. AV Media Systems aims to make sophisticated technology easy to use.



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**Chris Marley
from ClickView
will present:**



ClickView: More than Just video to the Desktop

ClickView is the most reliable, easy-to-manage platform, providing on-demand access to your school's video library wherever learning is taking place.

Whether from a Windows PC, Mac, TV or web page, students and teachers can view any video from your entire library, at any time, at their own pace, in DVD-quality. And its not just video!

ClickView can be scaled to deliver video to hundreds of users at the same time across your existing network. It can also seamlessly integrate with your school's online applications, including library catalogues and learning management systems.

**Liz Turville from
Austhink
Software Pty Ltd
will present:**



Critical thinking in the classroom using Rationale

Ever wonder how you can make your classes that bit more interesting?
Ever wondered why your students have difficulty putting their ideas together?
Maybe you want something to help make your classes more fun, more effective and much easier?

Well, take a look at Rationale. It is a new fully Australian owned and developed software tool designed to help teachers develop the art of critical thinking in their students. It involves creating argument maps and has been proven to have major impacts on development. If it is English, Science, Politics, Religion, Ethics, SOSE, History, Maths or any subject in which students need to use Reasoning, then Rationale is a fantastic way to support your pedagogy.

**Rod Langlands from
SCAFFOLD EDUCATION
will present: *Mathletics***

Mathletics, Australia's most used educational website, is the next generation in learning, helping students enjoy Mathematics and achieve outstanding results.

Mathletics is a web-based learning environment comprising curriculum specific activities created for Australian students of all ages and abilities.

Over the last six months Australian students have answered over 150 million questions and the improvement rates have been phenomenal.

This presentation will show you how Mathletics works for students, as well as for teachers.

Come and see why more than 700 Australian schools are using Mathletics.

**Nathan Manzi
from eye4you Pty
Ltd will present:**



Encouraging Positive Behaviour on School Networks

This presentation addresses issues of: non-productive computer use, cyber bullying, profanity, discussions on drug use, and acceptable use policy on school networks

Many schools are finding it a challenge to effectively enforce their Acceptable Use Policy on their student network, and monitor for breaches. There are ongoing issues with cyber-bullying, profanity, discussions on drug use, and other non-productive computer use. And without the right tools, it's virtually impossible to provide evidence of violations when they occur! And let's face it, prevention is better than cure! It's also extremely time and cost intensive to monitor for every violation and prevent students from being exposed to explicit material in the first place. But with the new Policy Central Enterprise 3.x, software your school will encourage positive behaviour across your entire network, in any application both online, and offline. Often in as little as just 6 weeks. The result: a clean network, that's safe for everybody to use!



Lyn Hawkins from Finn Cragg will present:

Generating Learning Outcomes with Finn Cragg Multimedia: Utilising Existing Microsoft and Apple Software

In this presentation/workshop, Lyn Hawkins of Finn Cragg will showcase new multimedia resources and share the experiences of schools using these engaging tools. Finn Cragg's CARAVAN: 3D Animation and Multimedia will be demonstrated to show how they are being used to generate curriculum outcomes and build literacy foundations for storytelling. With a focus on ICT in the English and Media curriculum, Lyn will cover topics including viewing, language, speaking, reading and writing and the introductory skills enabling repurposing of texts, media production and analysis. Participants will see how Finn Cragg storyboards can be imported into Power Point for viewing and visual literacy lessons, and how 3D stills can be used with Microsoft Photo Story 3 for Windows to create story books with basic animatics and effects, voice-overs and music. Lyn Hawkins will also show some samples of productions where Finn Cragg animated footage has been imported into editing software like Microsoft Movie Maker and iMovie to create new productions. Participants will also get a sneak preview of Finn Cragg's next production "Emu and the Flying Doctor" to be launched later this year.

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Exhibit, Explain, Explore
Sunday 5th and Monday 6th November
The Atrium Hotel, Mandurah



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ECAWA 2006 State Conference

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A website worth checking out.....

The New York Times Learning Network

at: <http://www.nytimes.com/learning>

The New York Times Learning Network lesson plans are developed in partnership with The Bank Street College of Education in New York City and can be found at <http://www.nytimes.com/learning> Five days a week a new lesson plan in a different area of the curriculum is made available on the website and emailed to subscribers.

Each lesson plan relates to a recent article (available online) in the New York Times and follows a similar format, being arranged under the headings of title, related New York Times article, author(s), grades / year levels, subjects, overview of lesson plan, suggested time allowance, objectives, resources / materials, activities / procedures, interdisciplinary connections and academic content standards (specific outcomes).

Although developed specifically for US schools, the lesson plans are a plentiful source of ideas and inspiration. Have a look at recent offering such as 'Search Me (Not): *Developing Profiles of Literary and Historical Figures by Imagining Their Web Searches*,' 'Toxic Technology: *Examining Materials Used to Make Computers and Persuading Local Communities to Recycle Them Properly*,' 'Hot Off the Web: *Creating Blogs to Explore Current Events*,' 'Do You Feel Lucky?: *Calculating Probability with Dice*' or 'Causes and Effects: *Creating a Resource Guide to International Volunteer Organizations*.'

Australian Dictionary of Biography Online - <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/adbonline.htm>

Australian Dictionary of Biography Online claims to be Australia's pre-eminent dictionary of national biography. On the site are over 10,000 biographies of significant Australians who died before 1980.

On the Curriculum Council website at <http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au/>

There is a section headed '*FAQs About the WACE refinement process*' that could be of interest to teachers involved in the Year 11 and 12 courses.

Tell your colleagues about the ECAWA Conference!

An extra copy of the Registration brochure has been included with your copy of LOGIN. Please give this to a colleague and tell them about ECAWA and the Conference. Extra Registration Forms may be downloaded from www.ecawa.asn.au

Online Conference for Students

iNet (a US group) is hosting four online conferences which will allow students around the world to learn about global issues.

More importantly, it will provide students with the opportunity to share their ideas with other students and develop a global perspective on life on our planet.

The online conferences are based on material produced by students and by participating in these conferences students will be able to develop their roles as global citizens and discuss: 'What does it mean to be a global citizen?'

The organisers need students help to make the conferences a success and invite students to use their imagination and creative skills to tell them what they think about their role in the world - today and tomorrow.

This might include short stories, essays, letters, mindmaps, drawings, videos or audio files. Some questions have been provided as a starting point, but they are only a guide the organisers want students to be honest and submit resources on the issues that matter to them. The resources may then be discussed by students from around the world.

Dates for your diary:

1. Global citizens. Are you a global citizen?

11 December - 17 December 2006

* *Deadline for papers / presentations: Monday 23 October 2006*

2. Global equality. We are the first generation who can eradicate poverty. How can we make this happen?

5 February - 11 February 2007

* *Deadline for papers / presentations: Monday 11 December 2006*

3. Global resources. How can we protect our planet?

12 March - 18 March 2007

* *Deadline for papers / presentations: Monday 29 January 2007*

4. Global peace. How can we bring peace to our planet?

14 May - 20 May 2007

* *Deadline for papers / presentations: Monday 2 April 2007*

To register:

Students (and teachers who intend to forward access details on to a large number of participating students) may register online for the set of four conferences, for no cost, at:

<http://www.cybertext.net.au/studentreg2.htm>

To find out more visit: <http://www.ssat-inet.net> The website includes detailed information about the first topic, extra resources and full guidelines for getting involved.

Value Adding Quest - What has been happening?

It should be a busy time at the moment for students and teachers who are planning to enter the Value Adding Quest this year. We are really looking forward to seeing the innovative work of so many talented and creative students out there. The closing date for entries is Thursday 14th September 2006. Larger entries that cannot be sent by mail need to be delivered in person, please telephone Maria Biscotto, the VAQ Project Officer to organise where they need to be delivered to.

Judging will occur soon after on Saturday 16th September. Judging will be held at the Fremantle/Peel Education District Office Beaconsfield Office, which is situated at 184 Hampton Road, Beaconsfield (cnr. of Lefroy and Hampton Road, Beaconsfield) Please contact Maria if you are able to spare a Saturday morning by judging the students' work. It would be fantastic to see lots of people there and it is a great way of networking. Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided. The venue for the Presentation of Awards night has been booked. It will be held at the same location as last year: Churchlands Senior High School. The date is Wednesday 25th October 2006.

The Value Adding Quest received some positive exposure at the recent Technology and Enterprise Conference at the Mt Lawley campus of Edith Cowan University. Ms Liz Efthyvoulos Deputy Principal at Bicton Primary School was asked to do a major presentation at the conference and she chose to talk about the Value Adding Quest, from a teacher's perspective entering the Quest. In 2005 Ms Efthyvoulos and her year 6/7



class won 1st place in the year 6/7 category with their entry on Peanut Allergy Awareness. Ms Efthyvoulos and her colleague Ms Jacky Newman also offered to set up and 'man' the VAQ display at the conference. Mr Angelo Karsakis, Business Education teacher at St. Andrew's Grammar and VAQ management committee member who also did a presentation at the conference helped out with the manning of the VAQ stand.

We have received many positive comments. We thank Liz, Jacky and Angelo for helping with the VAQ stand at the conference and their assistance with promoting the Quest.

We welcome a new member on the VAQ management committee Mr Carl Sanderson; teacher at Kensington Primary School has joined as a primary school representative. We will appreciate his input from a primary school perspective.

Have a great Term 3 !!

Maria Biscotto



For further information about the Value Adding Quest. You can contact your professional association representative on the VAQ committee.

ECAWA Ms Judy Weggelaar

Or contact the VAQ Project officer: Maria Biscotto

PO Box 1479 South Perth WA 6951

Telephone / Facsimile: (08) 9450 3157 - E-Mail: vquest@iinet.net.au

Or visit our website: www.iinet.net.au/~vquest

'Constitution' or 'Rules of Association'?

In late 2005 and early 2006 APEA conducted some workshops examining risk management for professional associations. ECAWA was represented at the workshops by Val Baird, and as a result of her report and in response to some concerns expressed by other members of the ECAWA Committee, a sub-committee was formed to examine the ECAWA Constitution with a view to bringing the document into line with current standards of 'best practice' and minimise the various risks that face associations such as ours.

Initial advice and information was provided by staff at the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection, which has responsibility for administering the *Associations Incorporation Act (1987)*.

We were also very fortunate to have the assistance of someone with legal qualifications and experience who was able to guide us through what would have otherwise been an immensely more time consuming and complicated process. This assistance would not be available indefinitely, and delaying this work could have left a future Committee to 'go it on their own' at some point.

Early in the process it was decided that rather than try to make numerous amendments to the existing Constitution, the Committee would base a new document on the 'Model Rules' provided by DoCEP, and would bring the provisions of the ECAWA Constitution into that format where it was considered appropriate. Conforming to this standard now should give the association a document that will be easier to work with well into the future.

The intention is that the notice of motion for the Annual General Meeting to accept the new Rules will propose:

1. That the existing Constitution of the Educational Computing Association of Western Australia (Inc) be repealed; and
2. That the new Rules as proposed be accepted to replace the former Constitution.

This motion may be put under the existing Constitution, which allows the whole document to be repealed but requires smaller changes to be moved clause by clause.

Some of the differences between the existing Constitution and the proposed Rules are to bring the wording up to date for example 'Information and Communication Technologies', 'ICT' and 'professional learning' appear in the new document.

Other changes that are more significant include:

In all sections where a certain number of days notice is required - usually notice of meeting dates and notice of motions the number of days notice now specifies 'school days'. This is in recognition that many members are out of contact during school holiday breaks, and may not receive a 'notice' until

school resumes, and that matters requiring notice to be given in this way are sometimes very significant. (see *Section 2 Definitions*)

In Section 2 Definitions: 'Financial Year' This would move the financial year from a July 1st June 30th financial year to a September 1st to August 31st financial year. A number of benefits for the association include the moving of some of the Treasurer's work out of a peak period, moving the auditing out of a peak period and allowing for a late AGM (as in 2006) to take place without the Committee having to apply for an exemption from DoCEP. This is useful as a payment of fees is involved in obtaining the DoCEP exemption to hold an AGM more than three months after the end of the financial year. This year because of very long standing arrangements between the ACCE and ECAWA and the other state groups, we are not permitted to hold the ECAWA State Conference between the beginning of September and the beginning of November, and so we will run over the three month limit. These national conference arrangements have the potential to affect the timing of the ECAWA State Conference, and so the AGM, every second year.

In Section 6 Register of members: The Secretary's responsibility to allow any member to inspect the Register of Members and make a copy of names and residential or postal addresses is spelled out in Section 5 and again in Section 12. *It is important to note that this is not something we are deciding to allow in disregard of members' privacy. The Associations Incorporation Act (1987) compels all Incorporated Associations to conform to this rule whether or not it is written in to their Constitution or Rules. This sub-rule brings the situation to the attention of members.*

In Section 7 Subscriptions of members: The Committee would be allowed to fix a date on which subscriptions become due. This would mean that after a 'phasing in period' all subscriptions would be due on, for example, the 30th of April. This would allow the Secretary to do one mail out of renewal notices rather than batches each month, and would be a much more effective use of the time. The sending out of renewal notices could then be co-ordinated with other mail outs, with a potential to save hundreds of dollars in postage costs each year.

In Section 10 Committee of Management: Only the core Committee positions are listed, along with a provision for 4-7 'Ordinary Committee members'. These Committee members or others who are appointed or co-opted may fill particular roles and perform particular tasks that the Committee considers necessary from time to time. It will avoid members finding themselves elected to 'inactive' positions that have only 'historical significance' because they were once written into the Constitution, and should limit the number of amendments to this section that become necessary in the future.

In Section 15 Proceedings of Committee: The pecuniary interest rules are laid out here for the information of all members and Committee members. *The Associations Incorporation Act (1987) compels all Incorporated Associations to conform to this rule whether or not it is written in to their Constitution or Rules.*

In Section 16 General meetings: Sub-rule (8) now allows an additional way of giving notice of a meeting to a member. It allows notice to be given to the member in person or by post, but now also allows notice of a meeting to be sent by email to the member's email address, but stipulates that a notice of the meeting also be placed on the home page of the Association's website.

In Section 17 Quorum and proceedings at general meetings: Sub-rule 9 allows the members to have the final say about whether or not a vote will be taken by secret ballot.

In Section 20 Postal votes of members: This is one of the more important changes. An examination of resolutions passed at Annual General Meetings of the association shows that many could have been dealt with by a Postal Vote, had the Constitution allowed this. While it would be ideal if all members came to meetings, we know that this does not happen. The very fact that we are bound by the current provisions of the existing ECAWA Constitution to hold the Annual General Meeting in conjunction with the Annual Conference, means that we are always 'counting out' some members from attending the AGM. While the Committee always tries to minimise the problem as much as possible, their hands are to a great extent, tied. Given the choice of a Sunday or a Monday (school day) this year, with an 'out of town' venue the Committee opted to hold the AGM on Sunday afternoon as being the time likely to suit more people, however this will still mean that many members don't get to vote at the AGM. There are also the members in remote areas who would be unlikely to be able to travel to a meeting and who ought to be considered.

A provision that permits future Committees to allow members a Postal Vote, within carefully considered conditions, on particular items should allow more members to have a say in the decision making of their association.

This work has now reached a stage where the Committee would like members to read the draft of the proposed Rules (available from ECAWeb) and send in comments on any matter that needs clarification or causes concern, as soon as possible.

Please make the time to do this, and help to develop a new set of 'Rules of Association' that will stand ECAWA in good stead well into the future.

ASISTM Project Update



Michael Lord discusses Wesley College's project to the group

The ASISTM project titled "Sustainability in Education: Building Long Term Solutions for Seven Western Australian Schools" linking science, mathematics and ICT outcomes has progressed to the contract being signed, a cost centre set up and a research project number being granted through Office of Research and Development Curtin University of Technology. Ethic clearance has been obtained as all ASISTM projects must collect pre- and post- project data.

Sue Trinidad, as Project Manager, has met with teacher leaders and visited each of the seven

schools involved in this project for the scoping and development of initial project plans. The first report has gone to the ASISTM critical friend, which is electronically managed from the ASISTM website and the ASISTM blog page has been set-up.

A school leader team meeting was held on 28th July 9.30am - 3pm at Curtin University to begin materials planning development and to meet Faculty consultants and education students.

Further information may be obtained from s.trinidad@curtin.edu.au

Join ECAWA!

ECAWA, the Educational Computing Association of Western Australia (Inc), as an association of volunteers, is committed to encouraging the use of computer technology in teaching and learning environments.

Our common interest is to further the advancement of education by finding better ways to use Information and Communication Technologies in teaching and learning. We want to see what the latest in software, hardware, infrastructure and trends in technology can mean for our students and in our schools.

Some ECAWA members are ICT novices and some are experts, but one of the things that we have in common is that we help each other and share information.

ECAWA has been a thriving professional association for well over 25 years, offering members support of a national and international standard.

ECAWA offers a variety of services to its members. Aside from the invaluable advice about all matters associated with using computer technology in education, we provide:

- Free or low cost professional development
- Discounted access to our State Conference
- LOGIN Journals 4 per year
- AEC journals 2 per year
- ECAWA Educator of the Year Award
- ECAWA Leader of the Year Award
- ACEC National Conference subsidies
- Technology issues advocacy
- Participation in state wide and national projects

Membership fees are kept as low as possible, ranging from \$20 for students, \$60 for individual country members, \$65 for individual members, \$75 for library memberships through to \$150 for school memberships. A school membership allows the member school to register several people at 'member' rates at the Conference and other events.

An application for membership of ECAWA may be downloaded from ECAWeb follow the links from www.ecawa.asn.au, or if you prefer, email president@ecawa.asn.au and ask for a form to be emailed to you.

Membership Details:

Please check that the contact details of your school or personal membership are correct. Updated information may be sent to the ECAWA Secretary at secretary@ecawa.asn.au

The latest information about the **ECAWA 2006 State Conference**, including details about the concurrent presentations, can be found by following the links from www.ecawa.asn.au

ECAWA and GST

As a notforprofit organization with an expected turnover under \$100 000, ECAWA has chosen not to register for GST.

Among other things, this means that no GST is payable on ECAWA membership fees, ECAWA Conference registration fees or Professional Learning Event registration fees, and we are not permitted to issue a Tax Invoice or claim GST credits.

If you require any further information about this matter please contact the Australian Taxation Office or check the website www.ato.gov.au

National Consistency in Curriculum Outcomes

Draft Statements of Learning and Professional Elaborations for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) from: <http://www.curriculum.edu.au/consistency/national.php>

As a means of achieving greater national consistency in curriculum outcomes across the eight States and Territories, Ministers at the July 2003 meeting of MCEETYA requested that *Statements of Learning* be developed in English, mathematics, science and civics and citizenship. It was agreed that *Statements of Learning* would describe essential skills, knowledge, understandings and capacities that all young Australians should have the opportunity to learn by the end of Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

It was proposed that, once completed, Statements and their Professional Elaborations should be used by State and Territory departments or curriculum authorities (their primary audience) to guide the future development of relevant curriculum documents.

Ministers requested that the *Statements of Learning for English* be developed first, with other domains to follow, depending on the success of the work on English. AESOC has overseen the development of this work, and the work has been project-managed by Curriculum Corporation.

In February 2005, Ministers gave in principle support for the *Statements of Learning for English* and noted the associated Professional Elaborations.

At the May 2005 meeting of MCEETYA, Ministers re-confirmed the original purpose of the *Statements of Learning* and agreed to proceed with the development of the additional areas as outlined above, and to add Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) as a further area in light of the Australian Government's quadrennium funding legislation, *Schools Assistance (Learning Together - achievement through choice and opportunity) Act 2004*.

As a consequence of the conditions outlined in this new legislation, MCEETYA also requested AESOC to provide advice on the relationship between *Statements of Learning* and national standards and testing. This work is currently being progressed.

While requesting this additional work MCEETYA did, however, endorse a position that testing would not be developed to match each of the junctures of the new *Statements of Learning*, and confirmed that the existing testing program would satisfy the relevant conditions of the new legislation. At this time MCEETYA also added requirements for a Year 9 cohort test for literacy and numeracy and for testing of the full range of abilities for literacy and numeracy, rather than only for the minimum Benchmark standard.

After an intensive period of development during 2005 under the direction of AESOC and the project management of Curriculum Corporation, and with expertise contributed by all States and Territories, Ministers approved the *Statements of Learning* for mathematics, science, civics and citizenship and ICT in August 2006.

MCEETYA has recently endorsed a process for jurisdictions to comply with the relevant section of the *Australian Government Schools Assistance Act 2004* on 'the implementation of *Statements of Learning*'.

This process includes:

- Ministerial 'sign off' (by no later than 1 January 2008) that syllabus and curriculum documents used to underpin learning programs in government and non-government schools within jurisdictions have addressed and incorporated the now endorsed *Statements of Learning*;
- The provision to the Australian Government Minister for Education of a detailed map, also by 1 January 2008, showing how the specific elements of the *Statements of Learning* are present in the relevant curriculum documents (mentioned above);
- Jurisdictions having the ability, if they choose, to explicitly use *Statements of Learning* in the re-drafting of curriculum documents as a means of satisfying the mapping requirements for a domain. This option may suit jurisdictions that have a major curriculum/syllabus review planned prior to 1 January 2008.

The *Statements of Learning* may be downloaded from:

Statements of Learning for English

http://www.curriculum.edu.au/consistency/english_06.pdf

Statements of Learning for Science

http://www.curriculum.edu.au/consistency/science_06.pdf

Statements of Learning for Mathematics

http://www.curriculum.edu.au/consistency/math_06.pdf

Statements of Learning for Civics and Citizenship

http://www.curriculum.edu.au/consistency/civics_06.pdf

Statements of Learning for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

http://www.curriculum.edu.au/consistency/ict_06.pdf

This statement is available from:

<http://www.curriculum.edu.au/consistency/national.php>



*Enjoy good company, good food and a
good time at the*



ECAWA Conference Dinner Dance

At the end of the first day of the Conference, after a day packed with inspiring speakers and interesting and innovative concurrent presentations, relax and enjoy good company, good food and a good time at the ECAWA Conference Dinner.

The Dinner will be an informal time for us all to get together and chat with friends and colleagues and enjoy the band and the dancing.

The programme for the evening will include the presentation of the ECAWA Educator of the Year and the ECAWA Leader of the Year. As for the rest of the evening you'll have to come along and see what our MC has in store!

Courses of Study

Over the last few months, in the midst of all the debate surrounding the Courses of Study, ECAWA has been represented at meetings with the Minister of Education and Training, the Director of the Curriculum Council and the heads of the various school systems and others. A further meeting with John Gougoulis, Director Course Accreditation and Review, members of his team and a group of ECAWA representatives took place later in August.

At these meetings the ECAWA representatives were able to present not only their own views, but also the comments that other teachers had passed on, and we have achieved what appear to be some very positive results.

There is an ongoing opportunity for ECAWA members to put forward their thoughts and suggestions on refinements to the Courses of Study, and especially the Computer Science Course of Study.

A forum has been set up on ECAWeb where members may record their comments and suggestions and respond to postings made by others.

The forum can be accessed from www.ecawa.asn.au by clicking on the *myinternet* logo at the top, left hand side of the page. You will then be asked for your ECAWA username and password (please email secretary@ecawa.asn.au if you need a copy of this). Next, select the 'Courses of Study Discussion' and then enter your comments in the appropriate forum section. Alternatively, if you prefer please email your comments to president@ecawa.asn.au and indicate if you would or would not like your name to be attached to the comments.

ECAWA can do its best by members (and others) if we are able to put forward the considered opinions and suggestions of experts - teachers who are and will be working in this area.

Are you willing to contribute some thoughts or ideas?

The Computer Science Course of Study - A question answered

A question....

I will teaching Year 11's next year and would really like the opportunity to be able to create tasks that meet within the 2A and 2B Computer Science COS structure. I took part in the Action Research in 2005 and believe that it does not detract from the current Year 11 course but actually enhances student learning as there is a more holistic approach to the teaching of the subject matter. It would also give me the opportunity to try and create a number of tasks that with refinement I could use in 2008 when the course has to be implemented as a Course of Study.

Would you please let me know if this is a possibility?

The reply....

Curriculum Council - Wednesday, 23 August 2006

Thank you for your recent enquiry about the arrangements for the Computer Science course in 2007.

As you are aware, the current Year 11 and Year 12 TEE syllabus content will apply in 2007 and only content from the existing TEE Year 12 syllabuses (E code) will be examined in 2008.

If you wish to use in 2007 parts of units 2A and 2B in the new Computer Science course you will need to ensure that you are adequately preparing the students for Year 12 studies and the WACE examination in 2008 and fulfilling the assessment requirements of the D238 course. If this has been done teachers can make their own professional judgements about additional content.