



ACCE Board Meeting, March 2011 – Executive Summary

ACCE, as the national body for computing associations, facilitates opportunities for CEG members to have a voice in national ICT agendas. Most recently, this has occurred through an AITSL forum – Teaching Teachers for the Future – for which ACCE assembled a group of over thirty ICT educators Australia-wide to work on elaborations for standards in the graduate category. It is now proposed to build on this as the elaborations are developed for other categories. A position paper is being finalised on ICT and the Australian Curriculum and, through CEG representatives on the ACCE Board, local CEG membership views are reflected.

ACCE is itself an affiliate of other strategic organisations dedicated to advancing the education agenda. These include the National Education Forum (NEF) and the US based International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). NEF provides a forum for educators, parents and relevant community groups to discuss current education policy, principles and practice. Its existence enhances capacity of member organisations to respond, both individually and collectively, to national education issues, initiatives and directions. Topical agendas relate to national curriculum implementation, impact of My Schools website, professional standards and political advocacy. ACCE also has strong connections with the Australian Computer Society (ACS).

ACCE creates professional, collegial networking opportunities for ICT educators by hosting an annual study tour to US, centred on participation at the ISTE conference. The tour also includes visits to Apple, Oracle, Google, Intel, universities and schools. Additionally, in September 2011, an “In Conversation” study program will place participants in four schools in Arizona in collaborative partnerships where delegates engage with student mentors and teacher leaders. The focus is on professional conversations, experiential learning and building leadership capacity in school communities.

ACCE Board has recently contributed financial support for the Oz-Teachers list, highlighting its recognition of the significance and popularity of on-line professional learning communities. ACCE is supporting distance educators by providing the refereeing service and selected publication (in the national journal) for the 2011 Conference of Australasian Association of Distance Education Schools, themed Crossing Borders, Shifting Boundaries. In 2012, ACCE partners with ECWA to host the Australian Computers in Education Conference in Perth. Through the work of Ralph Leonard, as current ISTE International Representative, and Tony Brandenburg, as an identified ISTE Ambassador, Australian ICT educators are involved in the international scene.

All state and territory CEGs were represented at the March 2011 ACCE Board meeting and the agenda included an update of local activities. A consistent trend is declining memberships and consideration of strategies to address this, generally focused on alternative professional learning approaches (eg. on-line) and redefining association purpose to better reflect member needs and expectations in the contemporary education landscape. A further supportive strategy that will “value add” for CEGs is current Board exploration and formalisation of ACCE partnership with vendor sponsors that builds on existing relations with groups such as Oracle Education Foundation (ThinkQuest Australia funding), Internode (website hosting) and Promethean (Corporate sponsorship). The guidelines under development will be explicit about protecting existing CEG – vendor links whilst expanding potential and building further capacity through ACCE brokerage, on behalf of member CEGs, to support local based events and activities.

State / territory based CEG Educator / Leader (or equivalent terminology) award winners can be submitted for the ACCE Educator or Leader of the Year awards and the ACCE recipients can progress to consideration

at international level. Congratulations to Dr Donna Gronn of ICTEV who is the 2010 ACCE Leader of the Year and receives a cash prize plus ACS membership for a year and an invite to present at the next national conference. Congratulations also to Mark Smithies who, at the March meeting, shared with the Board his experiences in developing resources and learning experiences for students that led to his being named 2010 Microsoft Innovative Teacher for Tasmania. Through his Adventures with Mainstream Software project, Mark prompts reflective inquiry learning. ACCE, in 2009 and 2010, co-ordinated ThinkQuest Australia, directly supporting student learning outcomes in ICT and this year will foster increased Australian team participation in the international ThinkQuest (global web design challenge).

The ACCE website is undergoing revision and comments are welcome as to its readability, design and relevance; as it continues to evolve, there will be links to information on national / international education initiatives with an ICT focus and to strategic resources (eg. on cyberbullying).

Cathy Crook

ACCE Secretary