Welcome to ACCE’s journal, Australian Education Computing (AEC).

Let me begin by thanking the Journal Editors: Dr Geoff Romeo and Dr Donna Gronn for their work on the journal, not only this year, but also during the last seven years. AEC has been able to hold its attraction to writers and to readers, so we, the ACCE Board, are very grateful. The Board also welcomes Dr Jason Zagami as the new editor of the journal, along with the team at QSITE.

2012 has been a very demanding year for members of the Board of ACCE but with the demands have come many successes. The role of a national professional teachers association is important and sometimes forgotten by its constituents.

Firstly let me recognise the many companies that support the association. To our major partners: Promethean, Oracle, Internode and Atomic Learning many thanks for your continuing generosity and support.

This year we have made a significant contribution to the discussion around the Technology Learning Area in the Australian Curriculum, and are pleased that Digital Technologies now has a place within this Area. ACCE has had representatives working with the Australian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (ACARA) on various committees, so many thanks to Dr Jason Zagami and Dr Nick Reynolds for their time and expertise. Our associations position paper and further information is available on the website.

My experience in working with ACARA has shown me that, although state jurisdictions have responsibility for their own curriculum, due to state legislative requirements, the willingness of all to achieve a national perspective has been a guiding motivation. ACCE thanks Julie King and others from ACARA who are working towards what will be an exciting and contemporary curriculum.

Also our thanks go to Dawn Clark who represents ACCE at the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL). Dawn, as an excellent classroom teacher, brings great knowledge and understanding of ICT to the committee on which she serves.

This year has also seen a National Conference held in Perth, where more than 450 Australian Educators joined nearly 100 presenters for three days of discussion, debate and comment. The Board thanks the Western Australian Association, ECAWA, for all that they did to ensure such a wonderful time was had by all. The majority of papers in this edition of the journal are taken from the top refereed papers of ACEC2012.

At the conference this year, during the 25th Anniversary dinner, long time board member, Ralph Leonard, was made a life member of the Association. This award was not only in recognition for the time that Ralph has given to ACCE but also for his contribution to education technologies in Australia and internationally.

ACEC2012 also hosted the first International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Study Tour to Australia. This study tour was inspired by previous ACCE study tours to the ISTE conferences including this years very successful educational study tour to the United States with 25 participants spending just over two weeks visiting schools, different companies and the ISTE conference. Many thanks to Dr Trudy Sweeney who organised and led this tour. Next year’s tour visits many of the same venues and includes the ISTE conference in San Antonio, Texas. Thanks also to Wendy Macpherson and Fran Dorgan. In September they accompanied participants to Phoenix Arizona where they explored how Paradise Valley School District cultivates world class thinkers and leaders. Planning is underway for a study tour to Phoenix in September/October 2013.

Congratulations also to the many states and territories that held state conferences and provided professional development for their members during the year. Evaluations show that the state associations are providing high quality teacher support.

With the help of Oracle, ACCE also hosted Girls in Technology seminars in a number of states. These seminars were warmly welcomed and very successful.

Lastly, let me thank the members of the Board who represent their states/territories and let me assure teachers reading this that these people have the needs of the teachers in their state or territory at the forefront of every discussion they have and for every decision that is made. So, to Ken Price (Tasmania), Donna Gronn (Victoria and AEC Editor), Steve Madsen (New South Wales and Web Manager), Margaret Lloyd (Queensland), Phil Blunt (Northern Territory), Cathy Crook (Canberra and Secretary), Trudy Sweeney (South Australia and Treasurer), Jeremy Pagram (Western Australia), Ralph Leonard (Past President) and Nick Reynolds (ACS), many thanks for all you do.

Enjoy reading our journal.

Tony Brandenburg
President, ACCE