IT's up here for thinking and it's up there with the best of them. This edition of Australian Educational Computing is a celebration of ACEC2006, held in Cairns from October 2–4, 2006 and congratulates all concerned for organising a fantastic conference in a stunning location. The Australian Computer Education Conference (ACEC) is the flagship biennial conference of the Australian Council for Computers in Education. This year the conference was hosted by The Queensland Society for Information Technology (QSITE). Well done QSITE for being generous hosts to national and international delegates, for showcasing Aussie excellence and innovation in ICT in education, and for staging a wonderful event that is up there with the best of them.

Published in this edition are some of the “Best” and “Highly Recommended” papers from the conference (as judged by the conference referees). These papers were judged before the conference and awards were bestowed when the authors presented at the conference.

Secondary Girls’ Perceptions of Advanced ICT Subjects: Are They Boring and Irrelevant?, was the Best ICT in Curriculum and Pedagogy and Best Overall Paper. In this paper Timms, Courtney and Anderson report on a project about Year 11 and 12 girls’ perceptions of computing subjects in Queensland. The Best Elearning and Innovation paper; Fostering community cohesion to sustain small scale online professional development courses by Michael Henderson, explores how community cohesion can sustain teacher participation in small scale, mixed mode professional development course.

Lloyd and Cochrane were awarded the Best Leadership and/or Computing Studies paper for Celtic knots: Interweaving the elements of effective teacher professional development in ICT. This paper explores teacher professional development using the metaphor of an interwoven Celtic knot. With too many authors to mention the Best ICT in Rural Education in Australia paper was Focusing on ICT in Rural and Regional Education in Australia by members of SiMERR. This paper reports on the impact of two key ICT MCEETYA taskforce priorities; promoting pedagogic leadership and, creating new learning environments, on rural and regional schools.

The first Highly Recommended paper, Relationship between Pre-service and Practising Teachers’ Confidence and Beliefs about using ICT by Jamieson-Proctor and Finger, re-analyses data from two previously unlinked studies to investigate the relationship between pre-service and practising teachers’ confidence in using ICT and beliefs about the extent to which computers can improve student learning. The second Highly Recommended paper, Using Student Generated Podcasts to Foster Reflection and Metacognition by McLoughlin, Lee and Chan reports on undergraduate students who were asked to produce audio podcasts for new students and found that placing students in the roles of producers of educational podcasts encourages them to engage in metacognitive thinking about learning.

Congratulations to the ACEC2006 award winning authors and to all authors and presenters at the conference.

We will do it all again at ACEC2008 in Canberra.

Geoff Romeo
Editor