A word from the editor

AEC would like to acknowledge State and National teachers and leaders of the year. Congratulations to these outstanding educators.

South Australia - The CEGSA Leader of the Year and ACCE/ACS National Leader of the Year is Sue Hollands. Sue was President of the Computers in Education Group of South Australia and Treasurer of the Australian Council of Computers in Education from 2001 to 2006. She was a consultant in ICT and Project Officer at the Technology School of the Future in South Australia for seven years, working with schools to plan the integration of ICT into their curriculum and managing the Learning and Teaching with the Internet and eTeacher programs. Sue is now working at Canberra University as the Executive Officer for the Australian ICT in Education Committee. The CEGSA Teacher of the Year is Judy Beal. Judy is Assistant Principal, Learning in the Digital Age, at Woodcroft Primary School with the Department of Education and Children's Services in South Australia. Judy has worked in both South Australia and Victoria in ICT for many years as a classroom teacher, ICT specialist and leader. Judy has been on the CEGSA committee (and ICTEV State Council) on and off since 1999. Judy has presented at state and national ACEC conferences, and also had the opportunity to travel to present in South Africa at the World Conference of Computers in Education in 2005. Congratulations Sue and Judy.

Tasmania - The TAS Teacher of the Year and the ACCE/ACS National Teacher of the Year is Margaret Mejers. Margaret is a classroom teacher and curriculum coordinator for ICT at New Town High School. Margaret uses constructivist pedagogies to teach through game development and other new and emerging real-world applications that bring learning to life for students. She believes in using technology to create powerful learning environments where ICT tools are used for collaboration, to enhance thinking skills, engage students and help those with special needs to learn. To deliver and support her teaching Margaret develops extensive web-based resources and these are made available and used widely in classrooms around the world.

Congratulations Margaret.

Western Australia - The ECAWA Educator of the Year is Terri Van Zetten. At the time of winning the award Terri was the ICT specialist at St Mary's College, Broome; a diverse school with families of many different cultures, with around fifty percent of families being indigenous. Through the use of information and communication technology, Terri has made an outstanding contribution to the educational advancement of her students and had a significant positive effect on her colleagues, both at school level and within professional organisations. Terri is an enthusiastic educator who is looks for ways to extend her students and create an engaging learning environment.

Congratulations Terri.

Queensland - The QSITE Educator of the Year is Dave McGuinness. Dave has been an active member of QSITE since 1996 and has presented at a number of workshops under the QSITE banner. Since 2000, a focus of his work with students has been the mentoring of gifted IT students in external competitions. Since 2001, Dave has mentored students entering what was then known as the Ministers Awards in IT Excellence, and is now called the BYTE Awards. At least one of his students has been successful in winning a state award in each of the five years since then, with a total of nine students being successful over the that time. Dave developed ES-Build and GoKeys. The QSITE Emerging Leader of the Year is Colleen Steiler. From 1998 to 2002 she taught at Nyanda State High School as a Computing and Mathematics Teacher. Colleen has developed and implemented junior computing courses and the senior Mathematics A course. At Nyanda she founded a girls only ICT group (Techno G) and co-wrote innovative junior computing curriculum encompassing web page development, multimedia for the Internet and programming. In 2000 Colleen was named the QSITE Teacher of the Year and in 2001 she was awarded the International Technology Using Educator of the Year. Congratulations Colleen. The QSITE Leader of the Year is Janet Cochrane. Janet was appointed an Education Adviser in Learning Technology for the Fraser-Cooloola District in 1999. The very next year Janet became the Coordinator of the Learning and Development Centre for ICT at Kawungan State School. By 2002 Janet had risen to State Coordinator for the Learning and Development Centres. She was also ICT Coordinator at the Learning and Development Centre, an Online Learning Coordinator for the Learning Place and an Associate Lecturer for the University of Southern Queensland. In 2005 she was appointed as an ICT Project Officer for the ICTs for Learning Branch and Learning Innovation Centre. Congratulations Dave, Colleen and Janet.

Northern Territory - The ITEANT/DEET/Microsoft Partners in Learning NT Teacher of Excellence Award goes to Robyn Thorpe from Woodroffe Primary. This award recognises the contribution made by Robyn to her school and professional community regarding the integration of ICT. Congratulations Robyn.

Victoria – The ICTEV Teacher of the Year is Lauren O’Grady from Sunshine Primary School and now Caroline Springs College (Creekside Campus). Lauren is a young teacher who has shown leadership in the area of ICT beyond her years. She has achieved success in many facets of her role in developing curriculum, providing sound technical support and innovative programs that lift the intellectual capacity of both staff and students. Last year Lauren worked on expanding students’ multi-literals through forming a digital portfolio action research team. Lauren led this team into researching and developing digital portfolios with small groups of teachers and students. This team of people were then encouraged and trained to lead others in the construction of portfolios in 2007. The ICTEV Leader of the Year is Greg Gebhart. Greg is the National Education Trainer for NetAlert and the Computer Manager / Multimedia Teacher at Lowanna College. Greg manages to combine these two exciting roles to enhance the use of ICT at a national and a local level. He also holds the positions of Deputy Chairperson for the Gippsland Board of Adult Community and Further education and Program Manager for the Gippsland Education Leadership Program. Congratulations Lauren and Greg.

These awards are an opportunity to recognise outstanding educators. Think about nominating someone in your state next year.

Geoff Romeo
Editor