Editorial

Welcome to the December, 2008 edition of Australian Educational Computing (AEC). I would like to congratulate Sarah Prestridge, Debbie Erikson, Wendy Grant, David Day, Margaret Lloyd, Terry Lyons, and Sue Trinidad for having their articles published in this edition and to thank them for their contributions. “Getting published” is a protracted process so thanks to all the authors for their persistence and good judgement in choosing AEC.

As readers are mostly aware, AEC is the flagship journal of the Australian Council for Computers in Education (ACCE). ACCE is the national professional body for those involved in the use of information and communication technologies in education. Membership of ACCE is enabled through membership of the independent state and territory computer in education groups (ICTEV, CEGACT, CEGSA, ECWA, ICTEV, ITEANT, NSWCEG, QSITE, and TASITE) and the Australian Computer Society (ACS).

The ACCE Board consists of representatives from the state and territory CEGs (usually the presidents) and the ASC. It publishes this journal and authorises the Australian Computers in Education Conferences (ACEC) held biennially. It is affiliated with the International Society for Technology Education (ISTE) and the Technology Education Federation of Australia (TEFA).

The ACCE represents members at a national level and increasingly at an international level; the current president of ACCE – Ralph Leonard, sits on the board of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE).

It is important that readers of this journal, who are mostly individual, (or school), members of State CEGs understand the relationship between the various state CEGs and the ACCE and what opportunities can result from this affiliation.

For example, the Australian Computers in Education Conference (ACEC) – staged every two years by a host CEG under the auspices of the ACCE, is the premier event for the Australian ICT in Education (ICTE) community. It attracts a national and international audience, is a showcase for ICTE research and practice, and provides a brilliant opportunity for networking across state borders.

In 2008 ACEC will be in Canberra and hosted by the CEGACT (see the ad in this edition) and in 2010 it will return to Melbourne.

A national conference organised by one of the state groups or by the ACCE has been happening in this country since 1979. This is nearly 30 years of accumulating a body of theoretical and practical knowledge and understanding about the use of ICTs in teaching and learning that is important nationally and internationally.

ACEC is the premier ICTE event in this country and deserves our support – see you in Canberra next year and in Melbourne in 2010!

The ACCE is also forging ties with international organisations such as ISTE and this also presents opportunities for members. ISTE is the professional technology in education society (non profit) for North American educators. Its charter is to provide leadership, advocacy, and professional development for members. It is a huge organisation compared to ACCE – their annual conference usually attracts over 15000 delegates.

In June of this year it was my good fortune, along with several other Australian educators and academics, to attend ISTE’s annual conference – the National Educational Computing Conference (NECC2007), in Atlanta. The ISTE/ACCE affiliation is strengthening and makes a visit to a large conference like this a very pleasant and welcoming experience.

NECC will be held in San Antonio, Texas next year (home of the Alamo) and ACCE is organising a study tour to New Zealand and USA that includes the conference. This is a wonderful opportunity to attend the conference with a group and to take advantage of group pricing on airfares, accommodation and registrations (see the ad in this edition).

Another opportunity afforded by membership of ACCE is to nominate people for state and national awards for educator of the year and leader of the year. The winners of the state awards are usually nominated for the national awards and national winners are usually nominated for the ISTE international awards. These awards are growing in stature and represent an opportunity to reward someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the ICT in education community. Most state awards are currently open for nomination so think about nominating someone.

Geoff Romeo
Editor