Editorial

This edition of Australian Educational Computing celebrates ACEC2008 and congratulates the Canberra team for organising a wonderful conference. The highlights for me were keynotes by Mitch Resnick and Margaret Cox, the conference dinner at the Australian War Memorial, and the award winning paper presentations. The award winning papers are worth sharing so in an effort to reach a wider audience some of them have been republished in this edition (with permission). I also enjoyed the panel debate on the worth of educational research. Thank you to those who attended and to those who contributed to the discussion.

The first article, by Ria Hanewald and Pennie White focuses on learner and teacher use of Web 2.0 technologies. Grouping Web 2.0 technologies into broad categories the authors investigate the potential of a range of applications that are already used in social and business contexts and are gaining popularity in many learning environments. The next five reviewed articles are some of the award winning papers from ACEC2008.

First is an article by Paul Newhouse on digital forms of performance assessment. Newhouse’s paper reports on the use of an online portfolio system and database linked marking tool to support a number of ways of using digital technologies to represent student work for assessment. The potential of the system to represent the output from assessment tasks in two senior secondary courses of study, Applied Information Technology (AIT) and Engineering Studies (Eng) is investigated. The second article by Romina Jamieson-Proctor and Glenn Finger is a synthesis of studies of Teacher Confidence in Using ICT in two Queensland schooling systems. It investigates, through a synthesis of the literature, the question - Are ICT initiatives having the desired impact on teaching and learning in schools? And concludes with a call for Australia-wide research to unpack and address the factors that are currently constraining the use of ICT within Australian schooling systems. The third article is another award winning paper by Paul Newhouse. This paper discusses a range of issues around 1:1 student to computing devices in schools and reports on some of the factors that contributed to the success of a Western Australian initiative.

The final two articles look at the Interactive Whiteboard phenomena. Trudy Swieeney’s paper reports on a research project from South Australia that describes a developmental framework for IWB teacher use. It provides both an overview of each stage of development and specific common indicators of what each stage looks like in practice. The paper by John Vincent and Tony Jones reports on professional development models to help with the integration of interactive whiteboards into classrooms and discusses the growing doubts, emanating from the UK, about the effectiveness of IWBs.

ACEC2010

It is not quite Twenty20 but it will be just as big and just as exciting. I am talking about, of course, ACEC2010 in Melbourne. Preparations are well underway for this event so visit the website (www.acec2010.info), register your interest, and put this date in the diary – April 6 – 10, 2010. ACEC2010 is being organised by ICTEV (ICT in Education Victoria) and will be held at the brand new Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre in the heart of the Melbourne CBD (www.mcec.com.au). By the way, did you get your ACEC2010 thumb drive wristband at ACEC2008? Now a real collector’s item and a stunning “got to have” accessory!

Finally, thank you Donna, Nick, Michelle, and Suzanne – another year, another two editions. Also huge thanks to our Editorial Board for participation in the reviewing process, to all the authors who have chosen AEC as a place to publish their work and to ACCE Board for their continuing support. Compliments of the season to all.

Geoff Romeo
(Ed)