Educators need imagination: Editorial by Hartley and Marilyn Hyde

In this edition we continue our search for innovation in the classroom. Logo, robotics and communications are still the most popular vehicles with which to stimulate children's imagination and problem-solving strategies. We all need to open our minds to the possibilities of teaching subjects in a new way.

Sadly, imaginative teaching is one of the first casualties as teachers across the nation assume a greater burden of curriculum development and course assessment. David Woodhouse helps us explore a fountain head of these 'progressive ideas' which many of us are rushing to implement in our senior courses.

One of the most dangerous aspects of wide-spread curriculum reform is that everyone becomes reluctant to repeat the process in short time spans. There is a real danger that subject leaders and assessment authorities may be most reluctant to allow us to make the numerous small changes required to update our subjects each year, and courses which make use of new technologies become outdated quickly.

This year several states are closely examining relationships between School and Industry and it is important that we consider the implications this may have for the curricula we are offering our students. This is their heritage. If we don't prepare them for work, we are denying them an essential component of their preparation for their future - a future which undoubtedly will involve as yet unimaginable new technologies.

However, there is growing pressure to train children for today's work-place rather than educate them for life. This is particularly evident in computer education. It is easy to fall into a trap of training children how to use a particular machine instead of pursuing innovative and educative activities like the ideas regularly described in this journal.

The Fifth World Conference on Computers in Education (WCCE/90), organised under the auspices of the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP), will be held in Sydney, Australia, July 9-13, 1990.

Held only every five years, WCCE is the major international conference in the computer education field.

WCCE/90 will be a conference for all aspects of computer-related education in all education environments.

For full details, please contact: WCCE/90, PO Box 319, Darlinghurst, NSW 2010, Australia. FAX (+612) 281-1208.