Educator of the Year 2000

The Australian Council for Computers in Education (ACCE), with the support of the Australian Computer Society (ACS), hosts an award entitled the Educator of the Year. This award, made annually to a school-based educator, is intended to recognise the importance of the work of Australian teachers contributing to the use of learning technologies in schools.

Each state and territory computer education group or association can nominate a candidate for the award. The judging for this year was undertaken in Melbourne, in March at the first meeting for the year of the Board of the ACCE.

The winner of the ACCE/ACS Educator of the Year award for the year 2000 is Jim Fuller, Teacher in Charge of Computing at Mandurah Senior High School, nominated by the Educational Computing Association of Western Australia (ECAWA).

As well as teaching at all secondary school levels, Jim's work with students includes running a computer club, providing access for non-computing students to computer facilities during every lunchtime of the week, sponsorship of upper school students with local businesses, and development of innovative web-based tutorials. He develops and distributes course materials for other computing staff, provides ongoing mentoring, technical support and professional development, often after hours, for colleagues, and as a member of the school council works with parents on information technology policy and advice for the school. Jim's extensive involvement with, and contribution to the activities of ECAWA, particularly his work with Logo and robotics, has made him widely known and respected beyond his school. For the Education Department of Western Australia he developed guidelines for teachers and educators who plan to set up school based web pages, and he maintains a personal web page containing volumes of information of use to teachers. The judging panel regarded Jim as a most worthy winner of this year's award.

This year's submissions for the award were of extremely high standard. The rules for the Educator of the Year permit the judges to make up to two additional subsidiary awards, and two further submissions were regarded by this year's panel as clearly worthy of these. Awards for outstanding innovative work in educational computing were made to Shirley Sidey of Townsville Grammar School, nominated by the Queensland Society for Information Technology in Education (QSITE), and Georgina Pazzi of Glen Orden Primary School, nominated by the Computing in Education Group of Victoria (CEGV).

All three awards were presented at this year's Australian Computers in Education Conference, ACEC2000, held in Melbourne in July.

Educator of the year Jim Fuller flanked by Shirley Sidley and Georgina Pazzi, who won awards for outstanding innovative work in educational computing. With Michelle Williams (President ACCE) and Anne McDougall (ACS representative on ACCE).

Anne McDougall

ACS Representative on the ACCE Board
Chair, ACS National Computers in Education Committee