

winner of the 2002 ICTEV educator of the year:

GREG GEBHART, LOWANNA COLLEGE, MOE

Greg Gebhart from Lowanna College, Moe is the 2002 ICTEV Victorian Educator of the Year. Greg's award was announced at the 2002 ICTEV Annual General Meeting in March.

Following is a brief overview of Greg's achievements in the past twelve months.

TEACHING & OTHER DUTIES

Greg is a leading teacher at Lowanna College in Moe/Newborough, Gippsland. The new College was built recently with Greg being instrumental in ensuring it had the latest technology as well as ensuring it has the ability to continually meet the unknown future developments emerging in ICT.

Greg's official title is ICT and Multimedia Manager. He is responsible for the day to day running of ICT in the College which includes technical support staff, budgets, planning, IT as a subject and the integration of ICT into the curriculum.

His teaching duties have shifted in the past few years from a predominantly IT curriculum to multimedia. Five years ago he established the College as the only RTO (Registered Training Organisation) for VET Arts Interactive Multimedia in Gippsland. His Multimedia classes now attract students from seven local secondary colleges who undertake full day training for the entire year. One of the highlights of this program has been the large number of females involved, often outnumbering the males. Greg worked closely with the Board of Studies (now the VCAA) to develop the Arts Interactive Multimedia VET program into a full VCE, VET in Schools program.

His curriculum is delivered in the classroom, however with the large number of students attending from outside his own College, he has developed the entire curriculum and content on-line for remote access. This is password protected and accessible for all his students and their parents.

The resources have been further developed to enable a number of regional schools in remote areas, to use the College as their RTO, as well having access to the curriculum content. These include schools in Bairnsdale and Orbost. Recently he has begun working with Swifts Creek Secondary College to enable students to enroll in his Multimedia program with the plan to eventually

have a video conferencing link into his classroom.

Greg has also established strong partnerships with ICT vendors in his own college, through purchasing programs with CISCO, DELL and other ICT companies. He aims to pass the valued added services that these companies provide to other local schools in his cluster, through large cluster orders and partnerships. Greg has been working closely with local computer company SAGE Technology and Gippsland Group Training to develop a program that produces "enhanced" computer technicians for schools. The program which has commenced in March 2002, provides a fully accredited traineeship for students, with the added extras of peer mentoring from local ICT leaders and accredited Microsoft Training and Certification. The aim is to produce technicians that are widely sought after on completion of their course.

Greg also provides ICT opportunities for many local youth, through the development of student technicians in the College and work placements for students with disabilities.

He has been heavily involved in the development of a lunch time computer club for girls, and a number of international projects linking his students with Wesley College Melbourne and Woods Academy in Washington DC. He has also been responsible for the development of the College's Intranet and web site.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Greg has a strong commitment to professional development and has worked tirelessly to ensure teachers in Gippsland and beyond have access to high quality professional development programs.

To provide his staff with an ICT professional development program to meet ever teacher's needs, he decided to develop a school based Learning Technologies conference. The conference has now grown into one of the largest educational events in Gippsland and attracts between 250 and 300 teachers each year. The conference is now in its fifth year with Greg as the sole conference planner, co-ordinator and manager. Each year over 45 presenters provide Gippsland teachers with a smorgasbord of quality learning technology programs and ideas to improve student outcomes and teachers skills.

To further develop local needs and to meet a range of professional development needs in the region, Greg worked with a team of educators to develop the Latrobe Valley Learning Technologies team. This group, now in its sixth year provides evening short courses in a range of Learning Technology. The program is now developed and coordinated by Greg, with 5 other educators assisting in the running of programs.

Greg also runs a large range of PD session in-house for his staff as well as being sought after from others schools as far away as Mildura to run seminars and training courses. These include skill development, integration of ICT into the curriculum and ICT in the middle years.

He is also sought after by different business groups to provide ICT training and an insight into new technologies.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Greg has a commitment to community issues and partnerships. He is the current Chairperson for the regional council of Adult, Community and Further Education, where he and the regional council oversee all the adult education centers and neighborhood houses in Gippsland.

Last year Greg was successful in gaining a major Multimedia Victoria grant to provide Community Access to ICT in schools. Greg co-ordinates the program, which has a target of 600 participants and is run in several local schools as well as Lowanna College.

Greg is also a member of the state committee for the Victorian Industry Education Partnerships Program, Lowanna College's representative on the Moe Business Development Group and an active member of the Gippsland Community Leadership Program alumni, as well as recently having been one of the teacher representative on the Victorian Professional Development Network.

winner of the 2002 ICTEV educator of the year:

GREG GEBHART, LOWANNA COLLEGE, MOE

LEADERSHIP

In 2001, Greg was a participant on the Gippsland Community Leadership Program. This program is similar to the Williamson Leadership Program and is one of seven major leadership programs in Australia. Greg represented education on this program, which involved a full day meeting every three weeks for the year. At each session, the group would have a site visit, and hear from six or seven key leaders, CEO's or inspirational community members. Topics included the environment, emerging technology, social issues, health and the community, Gippsland's image and future, government and the list goes on. His highlights were the day at parliament house speaking with the premier, opposition leaders and all the independents of the Victorian parliament, a visit to the

Sale prison and speaking with the prisoners, and the Helimed One rescue team who saved many lives during the fatal Sydney to Hobart yacht race.

This program looks at many in-depth ways we relate to people, communities, business and models of leadership. The program influenced Greg's own thinking as well as his classroom practices where he now challenges students to empower and take responsibility for their own learning.

Greg felt so strongly about the quality of this program, that he has started up the Gippsland Education Leadership Program for local educators. He is using his network of CEO's Directors, visionaries and high achievers to deliver a similar program, which is run after school hours for 2002. The main aim of the program is to expose educators to different models of leadership and community issues. Greg will coordinate the program as a pilot in Gippsland for this year, where he hopes to encourage teachers to think in a more lateral manner.

CONFERENCES

Greg is a regular speaker at conferences, both nationally and internationally. During the past twelve months Greg has presented papers at the World Conference for Computers in Education in Copenhagen Denmark, The Compaq Great Discoveries Conference in Auckland, New Zealand, and a

range of state conferences including ACHPER, ACFE, LOTE teachers association, ICTEV and regional ICT forums.

One of the outcomes of his conference speaking has been the interest by other educators in Lowanna College and many of Greg's programs. There have been two ICT tours by New Zealand educators this year, which not only showcases Lowanna College, but also enables students and other teachers at Lowanna to be involved in the promotion of ICT across the curriculum.

FUTURE

Greg began teaching as a Physical Education teacher, before he undertook a career change, completing a Graduate Diploma and his Master in Computer Education. Recently he began to link his two teaching careers by encouraging and assisting PE teachers to embrace the use of Learning Technologies in their curriculum. He saw many PE teachers reluctant to embrace technology in their curriculum as they viewed it was a threat to the very nature of their curriculum. During 2002, Greg is working with ACHPER in their professional development workshops and conferences to share his vision of how Learning Technologies can be incorporated into the PE curriculum and how it can enhance learning, not replace the curriculum.

Greg is on the ICT planning curriculum, for the proposed Gippsland ICT precinct, which will link University, TAFE, Group Training and Schools on the one location. This will again be an exciting project for education.

He is also keen to continue his work in linking education and industry through ICT and hopes to do the Australian Companies Directors certification later this year.

He believes this award, "ICTEV Victorian Educator of the Year", is a great honor and a wonderful opportunity for him to further promote the use of ICT in education. In his acceptance speech he identified this award as acknowledgement of the many additional hours of work put in by not just himself, but all ICT educators.

His philosophy in education has been that the more you give, then the more you will receive. This award is one of those examples.

In a keynote session Greg recently gave, he talked about the power of one. What one person can achieve and how many they can help. Greg is a great example of this.