

winner of the 2005 ICTEV & ACCE leader of the year:

TONY BRANDENBURG, CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE, BALLARAT

Tony Brandenburg, Catholic Education Office, Ballarat is the 2005 recipient of the ICTEV and ACCE Awards for Outstanding Leadership in the use of ICT in Education.

INTRODUCTION

Tony Brandenburg is the President of ICT in Education Victoria and Board member of the Australian Council of Computers in Education. His paid employment is as Professional Assistant to the Director of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Ballarat, a role that includes responsibility for ICT in the diocese. He is also the Victorian representative on the National Catholic Education Commission Technology Working Party and on many committees of the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria.

He has been involved in ICT in education since graduating from the Australian Catholic University in 1978 where in his final year he received an award for research into the integration of IT into the primary curriculum. At this time his work was with BBC Master computers and the original Apple computers, many of which he still has in the garage at home. He is still an apple user, something he doesn't let his colleagues forget.

Tony lectured in Computers in Education at the Australian Catholic University for three years in the early nineties, focusing on his passion for the integration of ICT into subject areas, arguing that the teaching of computers had little to do with a 'primary curriculum' as an identified subject.

Tony lists some of his interest as:

- Policy development
- Empowerment of people and the use of technologies
- Special needs children / gifted children and learning technologies
- Students and the construction of learning
- Leadership and leadership skills for primary education
- Statistical data collection
- Library computer systems
- Various forms of technological media
- Interactive television
- Satellite communication and education
- Teaching methods and the new technologies
- Teachers and the use of laptops
- The CEVN and its influence on teaching and learning.
- Curriculum development in the light of the VCEN
- The VCEN and its technical construction and implementation
- Digital resources on the VCEN.

Tony was instrumental in the creation of the Victorian Wide-Area Catholic Virtual Private Network, a network that now connects Catholic Schools in Victoria, sharing data, resources and providing Internet connection.

At present he is President ICT in Education Victoria, a teachers' association that is financially secure and provides professional development for Victorian teachers. In the past four years he has spearheaded significant changes in the office structure of the association, giving it an excellent foundation for it dealing with the ever changing ICT environment.

He holds a Masters Degree in Education, a Graduate Diploma of Education Studies (Computing) and a Bachelor of Education. He is a member of the Australian College of Educators and a Member of the Australian Council of Computers in Education. He has attended and presented at ICT conferences nationally and internationally and presented at many various gatherings. He is well respected by his colleagues and peers.

IN RESPONSE TO AWARD CRITERIA

ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE IN ICT IN EDUCATION INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND WORKS TIRELESSLY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Tony is interested in teachers, students and pedagogy. He has worked tirelessly for the successful integration of ICT into teaching and a student's normal routine. His focus has always been with primary education though his contribution to secondary education has been recognised. His work with video conferencing and voice over IP has benefited many of the secondary rural and isolated schools in Victoria.

With his excellent communication skills he has been able to develop good relationships between key parties at a state, national and international level. His work on behalf of ICTEV and ACCE has developed excellent links with the Education Department in Victoria resulting in the continuation of the ICTEV's membership of the Strategic Partners Initiative. His present goal, to bring the two ICT teacher associations in Victoria (ICTEV and VITTA) to a better working relationship, is commendable.

ASSIST IN THE BUILDING OF PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE THE USE OF ICT IN EDUCATION (EG. SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS, SCHOOL AND INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS)

Tony has continually encouraged teachers using ICT to work with their school communities. A significant section of his Masters research focused on the communication needed by teachers to bring understandings of new technologies to school boards and parents. Tony has worked with a number of computing companies and has developed profitable and long lasting relationships for his work in the Catholic sector and for ICTEV.

PLAN, DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS TO ADVANCE ICT IN EDUCATION

Due to the number of key influential positions Tony holds he has been able to help develop key strategic programs within his own sector and within the Victorian Education sector. He is frequently called upon to help implement or evaluate programs. He recently was involved in school applications for the Victoria Education Department's CeLL initiative. He has made himself available to the press and has been quoted on a number of occasions in the Victorian media, recently commenting on the need to continually monitor primary student access of the Internet. With his involvement in the Catholic sector and their relationship with the myinternet company, Tony has been at the forefront of developing online learning strategies and the use of online resources for teachers. He is at present working on the implementation of the Learning Federations, Learning Objects and how best they will be delivered to schools and the professional development required for their successful implementation.

PROVIDE ADVOCACY FOR ICT IN EDUCATION TO THE EXTENT THAT THEIR WORK IS USED AS A MODEL FOR OTHERS

His advocacy is evident through the leadership Tony provides in the Catholic education sector in Victoria. Innovations implemented in his diocese have been copied throughout the state. Access to schools for technical support, online PD management and web based communications have all been implemented outside his diocese. Tony has a unique ability to allow people to participate in debate and conversation. He is an excellent meeting chair and Professional Development facilitator as well as a recognised mediator.

SERVE AS A CATALYST FOR POLICY CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT IN ICT IN EDUCATION

Throughout his ICTEV presidency, Tony has continued the work of the previous president Dr Geoff Romeo in enhancing the profile of ICTEV and working for the association to effect policy direction at the Victorian state level. His work at the Victorian Catholic education level has helped develop policy and the implementation of policy. At present he is a member of the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria's permanent standing committee on school operations the body entrusted on providing policy direction for school operations to the Catholic Education Commission. He is also a foundation member of the Victorian Director's IT Committee responsible to the Catholic Directors for advice on policy and funding for ICT and IT in Victorian Catholic Schools.

CONTRIBUTE TO ACCE WORK AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITIES OF THIS ORGANISATION

This is Tony's second year on the ACCE board. His contribution has been significant. He has participated in a number of national forums including the consultation on teacher standards in ICT. He participates in the activities of the Board and is a vocal participant at Board meetings. By his nature Tony is a clear thinker, one who seems more interested in 'the forest and not the trees', an important quality for a national board member. Tony sits on a number of boards and committees outside the technology area. He takes every opportunity to further progress discussion on educational technology.

NURTURE AND MENTOR INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS AND / OR ASSOCIATIONS TO ENHANCE THE USE OF ICT IN EDUCATION

Tony's curriculum vitae lists a number of previous positions and responsibilities. These highlight his responsibilities over the years to the professional development of others:

- Implementation of the Technology for Catholic Schools Project including workshops for representatives of all schools from within the Diocese of Ballarat (70 schools).

- Implementation and management of technical upgrade in primary and secondary schools.

- Program for all primary schools and nine secondary schools including: Data Wiring programs for all schools; and computer infrastructure programs.

- Presentations for the VPN Project to many groups including: parent groups / school boards; education committees; primary principals; secondary principals; secondary bursars; and The Diocesan Librarians' Conference.

- Presentations on the implementation of Learning Technology Plans to many groups, including: the Victorian Secondary Curriculum; and Coordinators' Conference.

- Management of the Diocesan website.

- Member and Facilitator of the Diocesan Technology and Pedagogy Team.

- Coordinator of the Secondary Technology Support Group.

- Member of the Diocesan Electronic Working Party.

CONDUCT RESEARCH AND / OR WRITE ABOUT ICT IN EDUCATION

Although having a small publication resume, Tony has significantly contributed to research in ICT. His support of others, his chairing of conferences, his organisation of symposiums have all helped research to flourish in Victoria. During the past year he has encouraged members of the Victorian academic community to become part of the editorial committee of the national journal, resulting in the editor appointed being a high profile Victorian who can significantly contribute to the academic discussion of ICT at a national level.

INSPIRE OTHERS TO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE

Tony, by his example, encourages others to strive for excellence. In the testimonial letter attached to this document his present employer clearly articulates Tony's passion for his work, his experience and his want to improve himself at every opportunity. Tony has worked hard to develop himself as a significant leader in ICT in Victoria and has been an example to others.