

# winner of the 2006 ICTEV & ACCE teacher of the year:

**CHRISTINE TRIMNELL, NARRE WARREN NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Christine Trimnell, Narre Warren North Primary School is the 2006 recipient of the ICTEV and ACCE Awards for Teacher of the Year.

## INTRODUCTION

Christine Trimnell has undertaken the dual role of ICT Teacher / School Coordinator as well as Teacher Librarian at Narre Warren North Primary School since 2000. Prior to taking up this position Christine worked in private schools; the Catholic Education Department as well as several other government schools. Christine could see an exciting way to move forward in education with computer technology and undertook a Graduate Diploma of Information Technology at Deakin, Burwood completing it in 1997.

## IN RESPONSE TO AWARD CRITERIA

### WORK WITHIN OWN INSTITUTION

#### Teaching Role

Prior 2000 Narre Warren North Primary School had only a part-time Teacher Librarian. At the end of 1999 the school set up a mini lab or ten computers in the library area. They then advertised for a teacher to undertake the dual role of ICT and Library and to help lead the school forward in computer technology. They found Christine Trimnell. Since her early days the school population has doubled but the number of working computers has trebled. Attitudes to computers and related technologies have greatly improved and teacher and student skills have skyrocketed. eLearning was tagged a Charter Priority in 2002. Christine currently takes all 17 classes at Narre Warren North Primary School for ICT / Library Studies each week.

#### Educational Innovation and Excellence in ICT

In addressing the criteria of this award Christine would claim that she is only one of many primary ICT teachers working hard to embed eLearning into the curriculum in ways that engage and extend students and teachers. But she does readily admit that she enjoys a challenge and is always looking for some new project to undertake. Her personal philosophy then comes to the front, 'If a job is worth doing - it's worth doing well'. Fear of failure is not usually a factor she considers, as she really believes that if you set your mind to something you can achieve that goal, (or at least get pretty damn close - attitude is everthing).

This attitude is probably well demonstrated back in Christine's early days at Narre Warren North PS. She has always been an advocate for Civics and Citizenship and when Discovering Democracy Round 2 grants were being offered she seized on the opportunity to have a go. Her plan was to develop ICT materials that would be available on the web to support and extend resources already published in hard copy form – initially to be used by her own school, but also available to all on the web. She received the grant and faced her first challenge. Her school did not have a website and Christine had absolutely no knowledge about how to create one! No worries, Christine simply set herself another challenge - to learn FrontPage and to create enough of a school website so she could launch the resources she had created. Further Global Projects have followed that involve students at Narre Warren North PS as well as the broader community.

### PARTNERSHIPS

#### Work with students

- Works with 430 students each week from Preps to Year 6. She is tuned into their needs and develops programs to develop and further their ICT skills and attitudes.

- In Year 5 and 6 students are encouraged to take more ownership over the direction of their work and encouraged to use multimedia to achieve their goals. Last year the students created some outstanding presentations based on sporting heroes. This work was published in the ICTEV magazine, dated December, 2004 (Vol. 27, No. 2).

- Christine has led the development of the intranet with its dual purpose of existing for both staff and students. Each student has their own homepage. This gets added on to each year and when students leave in Grade 6 their folders from the intranet will be burnt to CD Rom for them to keep.

- Prep/ Year 6 Buddies are often engaged in relevant eLearning activities eg speech bubbles on bears and helping Preps with their Intranet pages.

- Over the years specialist clubs have been formed e.g. MicroWorlds; Digital Year Book; School Reporters; as well as computer monitors.

- In 2002 Years 1 - 2 studied their community and created PowerPoint presentations. Years 3 – 6 researched local pioneering families and again used PowerPoint to record their findings. Through voting the winning four names became the new School House names. This work won the national competition by Scholastic.

### eLearning Team

- Christine heads an eLearning team with members representing CSF levels and specialists.

- eLearning has been a Charter priority at Narre Warren North PS since 2002 and the team has worked tirelessly to support other teachers and to help improve staff levels of ICT skills.

- Conducted several curriculum ICT days for Narre Warren North PS and provided much formal and informal PD.

- Organised visits to other schools to broaden teacher's outlooks.

### CSF Levels

- Christine's educational philosophy as a specialist has always been to integrate with classroom practises. To this end she plans each term with all classroom teachers to ensure that ICT is integrated in meaningful ways between the classroom and the labs, and that both teachers and students are extended in their use of ICT.

- During Term 3 this year Christine established cooperative teaching units with Year 1 and Year 2 teachers. In these sessions the class teacher and the students both come to the lab to work with Christine, thus up skilling both teachers and students. This has proved very beneficial for all parties and will be expanded in Term 4 to Year 3 and 4 classes and teachers.

- Invited teachers to attend relevant ICT PD trainings.

### WORK WITH COLLEAGUES

#### Individual teachers / classrooms / levels

Christine likes to keep herself informed of ICT related projects that classes in her school could participate in. These are some of the projects she has been directly involved in and/or encouraged other teachers at her school to participate in:

- NSW Book Rap on Possum magic – created lots of email opportunities and sharing of ideas between the classroom, the lab and other Australian schools. Through involvement in the OZTL network Christine then secured a visit of Grandma Poss and Hush to Narre Warren North PS (the only school in Victoria to be visited) courtesy of Barbara Braxton in Canberra. The students had a great time with this travel buddy creating stories about her adventures. (Preps and Year 2's).

- Quizard of Oz – online project (Year 5 and 6 teams).

- Email links with Year 3 and 4 classes at Hampton Park PS to compare families and countries of origin (Year 3 and 4 classes).

- Email links with a catholic school in Ontario, Canada (Year 2 class).

- Emailed links with a school in QLD, resulted in the creation of an ABC about each school in KidPix and Powerpoint and then the sharing of these.

- Poets Corner – Regularly Year 3 and 4 students participate in this Global Project.

- First visit by a Travel Buddy - Sappy (Kerry Smith's travel bear from Adelaide) Since then teachers in the lower grades have all purchased their own bears for similar classroom extension work.

- Christine set up her own Travel Buddy this year "Birko the Bilby" and Preps had the pleasure of starting off his adventures. He is now touring other schools and some of his adventures are published on the school website. Email opportunities were also created for schools to participate in.

## WORK WITH PARENTS

- Organised an Open Night in 2004 to celebrate and showcase all students' work in eLearning. The school website and intranet were officially opened. This night was a huge success and parents certainly enjoyed having their own children demonstrate the use of the intranet. Every level, classroom and indeed every child has their own homepage with samples of work readily accessible by simply clicking on the child's face in their class photo.

- In 2004 several parents assisted with claymation projects with small groups of students from Years 5 and 6. The resulting work was outstanding.

- For the past two years parents at Narre Warren North have worked hard to win many great ICT prizes from the Westfield Shop for your School program. The results for our school have been fantastic and lead to Christine establishing an Apple lab. Christine has worked hard to ensure these computers are used and has introduced claymation and the making of iMovies to the older students. These projects and others were shown to parents at the eLearning Open Night.

- Christine has now established borrowing procedures whereby student's work ICT work is being burnt to CD Rom or DVD and students allowed to take this home to share – this is a great way to promote an awareness of and to celebrate student work in ICT.

- During this term as a lead up to Children's Book Week and the theme "Reading Rocks" Christine had all

grades from Preps to Year 4 create class variations on chants and rhymes, these performances were then videotaped, recreated in iMovie and burnt to DVD – also now being borrowed and enjoyed at home.

## SCHOOL WEBSITE

- The development of the schools website also fosters links and supports all areas of the school, particularly the section, Web links, which hyperlinks to student curriculum areas and relevant websites.

- A parent section also provides relevant links to areas of interest for our parents.

## RECOGNITION OUTSIDE OF NARRE WARREN NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Participation in conference and other professional development activities: Presentations

Christine has presented at the following conferences:

- Southern Metropolitan Region eLearning Expo for the past five years.

- PADEC (Pakenham and District Educ. Committee) PD Extravaganza 2 (2005)

- Lowanna College, Gippsland (2003)

- Mornington Park PS (2003)

- Visited by 30 touring teachers from England to see Discovering Democracy program and ICT tools developed (2001).

- Several teachers from neighbouring schools have visited (2004/05) to see setup and use of intranet at NWNPS.

- NWNPS – Curriculum Days and other PD formal and informal PD sessions (2000-2005).

## ICT related awards / listings

- Best Teaching Idea – Awarded by Ed Times, 2001- Demonstrated Energy concepts using MicroWorlds.

- Groups in Society Webquest – Victorian Winner Learning Quests (2003).

- Knowledge Bank – Groups in Society webquest about to be listed.

- Curriculum Corporation – Discovering Democracy – hyperlinks to "Groups in Society" webquest since 2003 <http://www.curriculum.edu.au/democracy/showcase/narrewarrenth.htm>

## Global projects

- Rainbow Fish hosted on SOFWeb – Global Projects (2003).

- Tashi funded by DEET and likewise available through SOFWeb – Global Projects (2004).

See school website: <http://www.narrewarrennorthps.vic.edu.au/projects/>

## Educational Innovation and Excellence in ICT

- Learning Federation, 2005 – road tested and reported back on Digital Learning Object "Wearable Art".

- Office of Teaching and Learning – currently team leader three staff at NWNPS (\$5000grant) – investigating audit tools on the web for VELS.

## Published articles

- Article "Students Taking Control"– Front cover of ICT in Education Vol. 27. No. 2 – December 2004. Article itself pages 6,7,8,9.

## Professional development

- Attended annual ICTEV conferences since 1998.

- Attended Kahootz Training in January, 2005 at ICTEV, Carlton.

- Attended iMovie training in June, 2005 (VITA – Xavier's College).

## Other projects

- AGQTP – Project Title: Communicating Through Poetry. Christine successfully applied for grant. Coordinated three schools and hosted work by all three schools on NWNPS website.

- PADEC Choose Your Own Adventure – ran an after school program in 2003 for gifted students in ICT – Virtual Zoos.

- Flat Stanley Initiated faxing project – Level 2 students (2003).

- Challenge of the Mind coached school team past two years - won "Best Computer Presentation" in each year (2003, 2004).

## Current Projects

- Bilby Travel Buddy – (hosted by PADEC) touring Southern Metro. Region schools since April. Email opportunities available for schools via own Year 6 students. Also created "Birko the Bilby" web pages on school website to share adventures.

- Census at Schools (Australian Bureau of Statistics) is Christine's current passion and alongside several other schools has been involved in road testing the new website and online questionnaire which will be available nationally from January 2006. Christine is keen to help promote this great resource to other teachers in Middle Years and indeed presented this at the Southern Metro. Region eLearning Expo held last Friday, 9th Sept. CesusatSchool is an excellent example of real kids using real data that they have contributed to and helps foster a positive attitude to statistical literacies again using ICT as the medium, but incorporating several KLA's (a perfect resource to support the new VELS!)

Participant in professional organisations  
- Professional Membership/ Associations

Active member of OzTL listserv for past 8 years.

School member of ICTEV.

School member of VITTA.

I&E – ICT Fountain Gate Network Cluster  
– worked with team to develop a skills list for Year 6 students. Co-presented with ICT Leading Teacher from Eumemmerring Sec. College – CensusatSchool at eLearning Expo (2005).