

# winner of the 2007 ICTEV leader of the year:

**GREG GEBHART, LOWANNA COLLEGE**

Greg Gebhart, Lowanna College is the 2007 recipient of the ICTEV Award for Outstanding Leadership in the use of ICT in Education.

## INTRODUCTION

Greg Gebhart is the National Education Trainer for NetAlert and the Computer Manager / Multimedia Teacher at Lowanna College. Greg manages to combine these two exciting roles to enhance the use of ICT at a national and a local level. He also holds the positions of Deputy Chairperson for the Gippsland Board of Adult Community and Further education and Program Manager for the Gippsland Education Leadership Program.

Greg became involved in ICT in 1990 when he undertook a Graduate Diploma in Computer Education and then continued on to complete his Masters Degree. He has combined his teaching duties with secondments and consultancy roles in ICT and education over the past 12 years.

In 1996, he began a part time role as an ICT consultant with Monash University specialising in Industry Education projects using technology. Since then, he has also spent several years at Monash University and Deakin University as a part time lecturer in ICT and education.

Recently he worked as a part time ICT consultant to the new Gippsland Education Precinct which is Australia's first single site senior secondary school, university, TAFE college and Group Training Company.

His current role with NetAlert involves delivering internet safety awareness programs throughout Australia and working with schools, communities, law enforcement and education sectors to develop processes and programs to reduce the risks for children using the internet.

Greg is a regular presenter at conferences. He has been involved in education programs, and workshops at a range of state, national and international conferences, seminars and forums. These include Denmark, United States of America, Ireland, Sweden, Japan and New Zealand.

Greg has also provided keynote and spotlight for the Gippsland Grammar ICT conference, the Computer Education Group of South Australia, NSW ICT Integrators conference, the Navcon

conference and the Digital Deco conference in New Zealand.

Greg is in constant demand to conduct professional development programs in the use of ICT in the classroom and internet safety.

## IN RESPONSE TO AWARD CRITERIA

### ADVOCACY, SUPPORT AND PROMOTION OF THE USE OF ICT IN EDUCATION

#### **Achieve excellence in ICT in education innovation and development and works tirelessly to improve the quality of education**

Greg has been one of Australia's leading ICT educators with his desire to share his knowledge with others in the education community and wider. He presents at conferences all over Australia, while maintaining his working role at Lowanna College.

Greg has a continual desire for new knowledge and spends many hours undertaking research so that he can assist his peers and fellow educators.

In his own school he has been a pioneer in the development of high end computer networks and elearning and hosts regular visits to his school by ICT educators from many parts of Victoria.

In the Gippsland region, Greg has established a wide number of ICT professional development programs to cater for local educators. The three most significant programs are an annual region wide ICT in education conference, a major skillsnet project which trained 600 community members in internet usage and a local after hour's ongoing PD program on ICT and classroom use.

Greg's other passion has seen him develop a region wide education leadership program to challenge and inspire future leaders in education. This year long program has run for five years with Greg undertaking the role as Project Manager in a voluntary role.

Greg has recently begun a part time role as the National Education Trainer (combined with his school role) for NetAlert, which has provided him with one of Australia's highest profiles in the role of implementing change in ICT usage in schools and homes. Greg travels Australia, advising schools, education departments, community groups and law enforcement on how to implement internet safety programs in schools and homes. Often he presents three or four sessions a day to promote safe practices and to educate

parents, teachers and students of the risks.

Greg has undertaken countless workshops and conference presentations where he believes he has inspired more than 15,000 education and community members.

#### **Assists in the building of partnerships to advance the use of ICT in education (e.g. school and community partnerships, school and industry partnerships)**

Greg has developed a strong partnership with Microsoft to trial and evaluate their elearning platform. As part of this partnership, he has presented at a number of conferences and forums on the Microsoft elearning platform. He has also worked with Microsoft staff to improve links and relationships with schools and educators. This partnership, which aims to improve learning outcomes in schools resulted in Greg travelling to Microsoft headquarters in Seattle, USA to visit and talk with visionaries on emerging technologies for schools.

In his role with NetAlert, he has worked closely with federal government agencies, law enforcement and key technology stakeholders. Part of this role is to develop and promote national internet safety campaigns and education resources for schools and how to integrate these programs into their ICT curriculum.

Greg has also been a member of a large number of steering and consultancy committees for the Department of Education. Two recent working parties have been the development of a statewide tender for internet provision for state schools and the development of a secure remote login brief for all Victorian schools.

He was also a member of the working party that developed the new Blueprint for Education (technology in schools section). Greg also had the responsibility of outlining and presenting the groups findings to the Education Minister.

#### **Plan, develop and implement programs to advance ICT in education**

Greg is involved in the development and planning of regional ICT in education programs.

He has successfully developed and run a Gippsland wide ICT in education conference for over seven years. The conference which averages 300 participants was established to provide high quality, low cost PD to the Gippsland region. The entire conference is organised and run by Greg without time release from his other duties.

Ongoing regional PD has been a large part of Greg's after hours life. He runs regular training programs on how to use emerging technologies and changing classroom practices with ICT. These low cost programs provide valuable support to primary and secondary teachers. Greg has kept at the cutting edge, by spending significant time on the net researching new trends and participating in online forums with many well known international ICT educators.

Greg has also worked closely with Multimedia Victoria to develop and implement community internet courses throughout Gippsland. These courses were developed for educators and the general community to assist their understanding of the web.

#### **Provide advocacy for ICT in education to the extent that their work is used as a model for others**

Greg has been involved in a wide number of projects that have been used as models for others.

Recently he was part of a team who developed models on how to effectively use interactive whiteboards and digital learning objects in classroom. This project has been featured by the Victoria Education Department as part of its statewide Knowledge Bank.

Greg has also established projects that have been used statewide as best practice models. These include his development of a regional ICT conference, the establishment of the first online professional interaction network for VET in Schools coordinators and the design of elearning systems.

He has developed a number of online projects that has been used nationally and internationally. His 'Image (web) quest of Japan' was published by the Studies of Asia Foundation as well as being used by a number of schools in the USA and UK. His 'Commeducation' website with ICT rich activities for the Commonwealth Games received 5,000 hits in the month before the games.

His ongoing commitment as a conference presenter, workshop facilitator and keynote speaker has inspired many educators to take risks and try new directions. He constantly receives emails from participants who have changed the educational practices in their schools due to his presentations and visions.

#### **MENTORING AND LEADERSHIP OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS**

##### **Contribute to ICTEV work and regularly participate in the professional communities of the organisation**

Greg's name is one that you will find many times in a conference program.

He is a regular presenter at ICTEV and ACEC conferences. At the past four ACEC conferences he has been accepted to present an average of five papers / workshops at each conference. He spends much of his day at the ICTEV conferences presenting, averaging three presentations per conference.

He has also presented at the CEGSA conference a number of times, where he has run numerous workshops and presented papers as well as providing the opening keynote address.

He has represented ICTEV and Australia at the last two World Conferences for Computers in Education, in Denmark and South Africa, where he was a delegate and presenter.

Greg also provides articles for ICTEV and VITTA journals.

##### **Nurture and mentor individuals, groups and / or associations to enhance the use of ICT in education**

Greg is currently working with education groups throughout Australia, to develop their understanding on internet safety and to assist in the integration of internet safety programs in schools. Key groups include ICT policy makers for the Department of Education, Catholic Education and independent schools throughout Australia, principal associations, community and school based welfare groups, child protection workers, community police officers and the Australian Federal Police.

At a local level, he has led the regional professional development team (Latrobe Valley Learning Technologies group) for eight years, where he has mentored many of the presenters in new technologies and the delivery of programs that will change teacher pedagogy using ICT.

His technical support team at Lowanna College has grown significantly under his guidance. They now host visits from educators and technicians from all over the state, who visit to learn about many of the latest design features of elearning and network design.

Currently he is mentoring a number of local educators on interactive and Web 2.0 technologies and how to integrate these into the classroom. His leadership and passion to help others was recently highlighted when one of the teachers he is mentoring was highlighted in the 'Freebody' report for best practice in ICT projects.

##### **Inspire others to strive for excellence**

As mentioned earlier Greg spends considerable time presenting at conferences where he inspires others to achieve, create and succeed in the use of ICT.

In the past two years Greg has presented at the following conferences:

- WCCE conference - Stellenbosch, South Africa

- FETC conference, Orlando USA
- ACEC conference, Cairns
- ICTEV conference, Melbourne
- VITTA conference, Melbourne
- Navcon conference, Bendigo
- ACHIPER conference, Melbourne
- CEGSA conference, Adelaide
- QLD Child Protection conference, Rockhampton
- Australian College of Education conference, Adelaide
- Computerlec New Horizons conference, Lorne
- Connecting up to IT conference, Adelaide
- AIS principal's conference, Perth
- NSW ICT coordinators conference, Sydney
- ACT Child Protection conference, Canberra

In addition Greg provides workshops and presentations at local forums and regional conferences.

Later this year, Greg will provide a spotlight presentation at the NECC conference in Atlanta, USA.

#### **SETTING DIRECTIONS AND EXHIBITING LEADERSHIP**

##### **Serve as a catalyst for policy change and development in ICT in education**

Greg has worked with many groups in the development of policies and change in education.

As mentioned earlier, he was a member of the working party that developed the new Blueprint for Education (technology in schools section).

More recently he has worked with the Australian Federal Police, Departments of Education, Catholic Education, the High Tech Crime Centre and NetAlert (Govt) to identify a range of strategies for schools to use to implement safe internet education programs and practices in schools.

##### **Conduct research and or write about ICT in education**

Greg has contributed regular articles for ICTEV and VITTA journals. He has also provided case studies and chapters for a number of publications including:

- Leadership in ICT
- Encyclopaedia of Portal Technology and Applications
- Best practise using technology in the classroom.

Currently Greg is involved in ongoing research on an international scale relating to internet safety. He advises the NetAlert Board and a wide number of law enforcement, education teaks forces and advisory groups on his latest findings. He is also involved in data collection from the national NetAlert Expo, to identify emerging issues in the use of new technologies by children.

In 2005, Greg undertook three months of

international research into best practice models for using ICT in education and linking schools and businesses using ICT. He has shared this information in a number of reports and in conference presentations.