

State Conference 2002

Jennifer Ryan
Conference Convenor

The ECAWA 25th annual conference was held at the Atrium Hotel, Mandurah. The conference committee consisted of Ben D'Lima, Terence Pestance, Lynley Mckernan, Denise Grassi, Jennie Ryan, Brett Clarke, Mark Stephens and Trevor Galbraith with Gillian Baird undertaking the role of Conference Coordinator. This group was challenged with the task of putting together a noteworthy and motivating anniversary conference.

The first challenge was setting the scene; the theme selected for conference was "The Need for Speed?". It was chosen to represent both the trials and pleasures that teaching with technology can present; it encompassed the speed of educational and technological change.

The second challenge was to have keynote speakers and presentations that covered many aspects of the theme - from the very latest in hardware, including the Tablet PC, to online training and "how to's" for beginners. Our four keynote speakers consisted of a mix of those with strong educational background and senior managers from major IT companies. They each entertained and informed with details of the trends and directions in their fields of expertise. Delegates had the opportunity to see and touch the latest hardware, courtesy of Microsoft, to find out about free training and tutorials from Macromedia and the adrelalin was pumping when SchooKit options were explored.

In addition, we were able to announce the start of a major project. myInternet International has donated a system to ECAWA that provides space for members to publish and communicate. Each current member is now provided with a webmail account and web presence. It is hoped that members will use this facility to share resources, ideas and concerns and thereby provide additional sources of support and expertise.

When selecting presenters we planned to provide sessions for technically minded, the experienced teacher and the new ICT teacher. To do this we included several sessions related to wireless concerns, outcomes issues and practical sessions. The delegate questionnaires suggest that we achieved our aim.

Our final challenge was personal. We wanted to ensure that the 25th annual conference was memorable. To do this we included special lunchtime events, poster sessions and a spectacular dinner. During a lunch break we had a group of students from Clarkson Senior High School demonstrating their Cisco networking skills and Lynley put together a presentation of images from past ECAWA events. It showed lots of familiar faces and identified many delegates as long time supporters of ECAWA. During the conference dinner delegates were entertained by a brass band, Smooth. It was in this



setting that we announced Mark Stephens as Educator of the Year. Many members will recognize Mark from his workshops and as the ECAWA Web Master.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank those individuals and groups whose support and help are essential. ECAWA was the recipient of a tremendous amount of financial support and goodwill from its sponsors. As well as

providing interesting and relevant trade stands, session equipment and computers the sponsors also provided a range of prizes for distribution to delegates. Major sponsors were CISCO Systems, myinternet Limited, Macromedia and B&H Australia.

I extend a special thank you to the conference committee. The group spent many long hours in meetings discussing, cajoling and supporting each other. The teamwork, dedication and commitment ensured that, despite a very tight timeline, the conference was planned down to the last detail.



New life members of ECAWA
Judy and Rags Weggelaar

Finally, to the many volunteers that gave of their time and expertise so willingly for the advancement of the education in this state, I thank you for the assistance provided at the conference and your continued support.

Jennie Ryan

Recognising our Conference Sponsors

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