ICTENSW
Martin Levins,
Vice President

Dr James Curran, 2013 ACCE Co-Educator of the Year receiving his award from ACCE President, Dr Jason Zagami

A busy term for ICTENSW

The group is supportive of FutureLearning, run by ACEvents (who run the national Edutech Conference), with their 2014 conferences in Sydney bridging the ICTENSW AGM.

Many members and board members are presenting sessions at this series of conferences, and it is hoped that the dates will give more reason for out of Sydney people to attend both the ACEvents and ICTENSW events.

Outreach program

Vice President Martin Levins met with DET, CEO and Independent teachers at Coffs Harbour to begin working toward outreach programs that can be facilitated by ICTENSW.

The high cost of travel will prevent too many headliner keynotes and/or presenters, but it is hoped that a mixture of local and imported presenters will make for an affordable 1 or 2 day workshop.

New Website

Board member John Drake has begun refurbishing the ICTENSW website, taking advantage of a new back end installed by providers Wild Apricot.

The site manages all aspects of the membership, enrolments at events and file storage.

Social media

Both Facebook and Twitter feeds are managed by 4 password holders to lighten the load and feeds are available from the website. It is very early days with this system and additional methods such as Scoop.it, paper.ly are being explored to provide members with curated content.

Professional Learning

The May meeting, held at Epping Boys High School featured lower numbers than expected. This was disappointing, given the quality of the offerings and the presentation split between the 2 streams of Digital Technologies and Computer Studies.

Workshops are being structured to represent more accurately a now broader constituency than the group had faced before amalgamation of the Computer Studies Teachers Association and the Computer Education Group, and it may take some time before members and prospective members become more familiar with the expanded brief of the group

The upcoming August Meeting is similarly broad, presenting workshops that should appeal to members in the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors and features a dozen or so workshops covering material from Using the raspberry pi to learn computing, 3D Modelling, using Google Apps to support authentic learning Google Apps in Primary School, Google Forms and Flubaroo, Using Minecraft in the Primary School, Appinventor 2

It is hoped that this wide range is perceived as reflecting the board's intention to be fully representative of its constituency.

Future Moves

Sponsorship, further drafting of individuals to assist with workload, and getting the word out are the three main thrusts for the next 6 months.

ICTENSW has taken advantage of some sponsorship in the past, predominantly in the form of small accessories and other prizes to be handed out at workshops.

We feel that we may need to venture further in this area, and would like to speak with other affiliates, possibly at the ACEC face to face meeting in October to share ideas.

ICTENSW is recognized as providing high quality Professional Learning and accredits its courses for AITSL compliance via the Professional Teachers Council.

This has been attractive to participants in the past. The difficulty is targeting potential participants, standing out from the flotilla of flotsam arriving on desks in paper or electronic format.