ICT Educators NSW mid year 2017 Round Up

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What has been happening in NSW?

2017 State Conference - Day 1 Friday, 10th March

ICT Educators NSW partnered with three TechEd partners, so delegates had the choice between an amazing line-up of using the latest products and best educational practice.

Site 1: Adobe Systems - Sydney.

This day was themed ‘Let’s get creative. Let’s change the world’. There was something for all teachers wanting to integrate multimedia into their teaching from Primary teachers looking for a quick, professional looking product through to Multimedia specialist teachers (in fact, after lunch Kelly Bauer, HSC Industrial Tech (Multi) guru hosted an HSC session on site). Delegates were given the opportunity to explore Adobe Spark, Muse, the Creative Cloud, Premier Pro and AfterEffects. Thanks to Tim Kitchen and the team at Adobe.

Google HQ - Pyrmont

Google hosted a day with the theme ‘Google: A solution built for all teachers and students’. The EdTech team put together exploring Google Expeditions, Classroom, G suite and Computer Science resources. The day included the much sought after a tour of Google HQ. Thanks to Marie Efstathio, Chris Betcher, Suan Yeo and all the team from Google.

Microsoft Head Office - North Ryde

The theme here was ‘Empowering every student to achieve more’. Teachers of all ability levels explored Microsoft Classroom, O365 features, 3D, Virtual Reality – Hololens, Unity game development, Visual Studio and Minecraft. A big shout out to our Microsoft hosts Dan Bowen, Megan Townes, Pip Cleaves and their many helpful assistants.
On Day 2 of the Conference, we explored Gaming in the Classroom with Bron Stuckey, Director Innovative Educational Ideas. Her keynote was titled: *The lived curriculum of digital citizenship makes it uncool to be a bad digital citizen.* In this presentation, she discussed the Pokemon Go! Phenomenon and how gaming can, and is, being used in the classroom.

She was followed by Dr Roslyn Prinsley, National Science & Mathematics Education & Industry Advisor launched the Digital Technologies Hub. The Hub has been developed to support the teaching of the Australian Curriculum. Dr Prinsley contributed to the site development and is the Senior Advisor on STEM Education to the Department of Education and Training. She also leads the School STEM team. Previously she was the National Adviser for Science and Mathematics Education and Industry Officer of the Chief of Scientist. In this role, Roslyn advised the Chief Scientist on the role of science, technology, engineering, mathematics across education and industry.

Skeeve Stevens, Futurist, Virtual Reality Architect, Future Crime Theorist, Network Architect, Innovator, Inventor among other things, talked about his mission to bring technologies together to benefit the human experience. He spoke about his concern about the coming Global Skills Crisis and then shared some upcoming technologies that are likely to disrupt life as we know it.

The final Speaker for the day was Global Innovator, Cameron Patterson. In his presentation, ‘It's all about the learning’ he told us how education is too often about teaching and not enough about learning. He believes students will only learn to take risks with their learning, co-create, network, and play with ideas if their teachers have the vocational bravery to do the same. He showed us how we might shift the mindsets of educators towards a more adaptive approach.
Now the dust has settled on our 2017 State Conference; we are beginning the organisation for ACCE2018 which will be held in Sydney from 2-5 October. The theme of the conference is ImpaCT, and our presenters will be given the challenge of demonstrating how we can ensure maximum effect on student learning using the technologies we employ. Additionally, we will be doing a health check on the rollout of Technology Curriculum and ensuring the many resources produced to support this can be shared.

As is expected at an ACCE conference, prominent Australian and international speakers will be featured, as will be a range of pre and post-conference workshops and tours, a trade exhibition, and a full social program. There’s also some fun to be had working with our venue, Randwick Race Course. Plan to experience a Day at the Races and all the over-the-top accessories that that might involve.

While many of you may have visited Sydney before, but we want to invite you, and your families, to experience a side of the city you may not have seen before. Sydney is the Australian base for many of the significant technology, film and media companies. Our accompanying social program will offer an opportunity for a ‘behind-the-scenes’ view. Please put the conference dates in your diaries, 2-5 October 2018 now, and we encourage you to consider adding a few days either side to experience all that Sydney has to offer the entire family.