

ECAWA Report for ACCE



Due to the impending roll out of the Digital Technologies curriculum over the next 18 months, members of ECAWA in Western Australia have been gearing up to concentrate on providing Professional Learning for teachers and pre-service teachers. Information can be found on [ECAWA's new website](#).

During the early part of the year, Dr Jenny Lane held a number of “Twilight meets” at ECU campus in both Joondalup and Mount Lawley focusing upon sharing Jenny’s research and showcasing a large set of free curriculum resources created by Jenny and her students. The focus was on introducing coding and ways to promote technologies in schools as well as engaging girls in technology. There were examples of 3D printing, Design Thinking, Computational Thinking, The Maker Movement, Coding Clubs and Robotics included in the examples presented.

During the April holidays, a well-attended session and very successful entitled *MinecraftEDU – A half day hands-on workshop for teachers* was presented by Megan and Grant Pusey at one of our government high schools. The acquisition of MinecraftEDU by Microsoft was discussed at the workshop and participants were provided with summary information and example worksheets and lessons to put in place on return to school.

Our recent successful ECAWA State Conference took place on 24th and 25th June at Edith Cowan University, Mount Lawley. Keynote Speakers Prof. Paul Newhouse and Dr Jenny Lane highlighted research into Digital Technologies and STEM, whilst Martin Levins, President of ACCE, held a captive audience with his extended keynote entitled *What Have We Learnt?*

The conference was well attended on both days and the numerous workshops covered aspects of the Digital Technologies curriculum at a wide range of levels of schooling. STEM was a recurring theme as there are currently moves in Western Australia, as indeed throughout the rest of our country, to upskill teachers in the pedagogical implications for introducing design thinking and project based approaches within their classrooms.

Semester 2 Professional Learning offerings will provide a focus on the Digital Technologies Curriculum, starting with two Primary Level workshops in the July holidays addressing Coding and Robotics for K-2 and 3-6 teachers.