ICT SERVICES

ICT Management & Leadership Conference

Janice Tuuina, **Belinda Stojanovska**, **Mackenzie Platt and I** attended the 10th Annual AISNSW ICT Management and Leadership Conference at the National Convention Centre Canberra last week (7-9 May). The Conference explored innovative network solutions and technologies and addressed questions surrounding ICT infrastructure, governance, leadership & management. **This ICT Services Newsletter summarises the Conference**. (#aisictman14)

Michael Eggenhuizen | Director ICT

Keynote – Dr Milton Chen

Dr Milton Chen – Senior Fellow and Executive Director Emeritus – George Lucas Educational Foundation spoke about the '**6 Leading Edges of Innovation in our Schools**'. Chen says that children can learn a lot more than we think they can … **and that we should be having very different discussions about teaching and learning than we did 5 years ago**. He jokingly said he was building a new website for schools that block YouTube, Twitter and Facebook - it's called 'YouTwitFace'. He said that **schools need to wake up to the culture of students today** especially as every form of media ever created is found on personal smartphones. He mentioned the importance of authentic and social emotional learning. **Chen argues that the seeds of school reform lie at the edges of the education system, where the richest forms of innovation are occurring**. The '6 Leading Edges of Innovation in our Schools': **Thinking** (teachers as mentors, team leaders, students as team members, scholars); **Curriculum** (textbook to project-based, global and bilingual education, social and emotional learning, work experience); **Technology** (1:1, learning independence, online learning); **Time and Place** (learning occurs anywhere, anytime and anyplace); **Co-Teaching** (co-educators, team teaching, everyone is a teacher); and **Youth** (instant access to information and social networks, powerful devices in their pockets). Chen asks has anything changed. **Teachers are still at the front of the classroom and desks are still in rows!** Blended learning **is transforming the classroom**, **independence is a game changer**. Online learning websites such as Khan Academy are transforming teaching and learning as we know it!
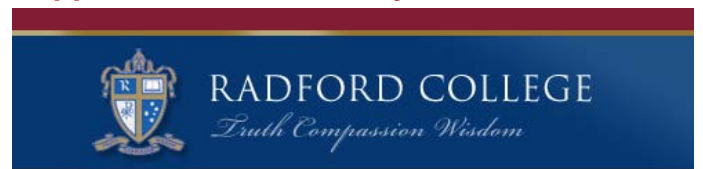
Google Apps & Amazon Web Services

Mitch Miller (@cruisingmiller) is the **IT Manager** at St. Luke's Anglican School Bundaberg Queensland. **St. Luke's is a young co-educational K-12 school of 850 students**. In his 3-4 years at St. Luke's, Miller has transformed the school's network upgrading wherever possible. **As a result of several natural disasters** (2011 flood – water peaked at 7.9 metres; 2013 flood – water peaked at 9.5 metres) **Bundaberg has had to rethink its disaster strategy plans** – Bundaberg DisasterHub. St. Luke's too had to rethink their disaster strategy plans especially in relation to networking, data and communications. Miller helped the school migrate to Google Apps & Amazon Web Services (both Cloud Services). **By hosting data and services in the cloud the school was able to protect its data/services from tornado and flood damage at the local level.** Staff and students access everything from the cloud delivered via browser or by relevant cross-platform apps. **Miller's full technical presentation here:** Google Apps & Amazon Web Services.

Support Services – Jocelyn Martin

Jocelyn Martin is the **Business Manager** at Radford College in ACT. Martin's presentation on '**Support Services – a Better Way for School ICT Environments**' details the ICT challenges and changes that have occurred at Radford College. Martin began by showing a video on the pace of change that shares interesting facts about people, technology and countries. **The Radford leadership team want to create an outstanding teaching and learning environment that upholds a values system and that is competitive, progressive and innovative**. Martin says that in the past the college was exposed to risk due to poor and inflexible ICT infrastructure/systems and that ICT was always front and centre of the working day. Martin says that schools should not hold students back like a dam but rather let them be like a flowing river. She says that ICT needs to be flexible and in the background – don't dictate devices, systems, etc. – let teachers do what teachers do best and that is to teach – students want to have fun. **ICT should be in the background and good teaching and learning in the foreground**. Radford's approach was to outsource the ICT infrastructure and device repairs to a third party and getting internal ICT staff and ICT mentors to focus more on training and customer service. **Radford is restructuring the ICT team to be less technical and more customer service oriented**. The college is currently working on a number of projects including: a 1:1 iPad program; a new approach to communications; replacing database systems; and reviewing the campus wireless network infrastructure.

Keynote – Mike Pelletier

Mike Pelletier (@CISEdTech) is the **Head of Educational Technology** at Canadian International School Singapore. Pelletier's presentation '**Bridging the Educational Gap using Technology**' was subtitled '**Developing a Thought Ninja EdTech Vision**'. Pelletier began his presentation by referring to '**The Internet of Things**' **where all that students really need to know is learned on the Internet**. He encouraged all to support students with crazy ideas. Pelletier quotes Tyson saying '**Culture will win over strategy every time**' and follows up by saying '**Student culture calls for changes in the classroom**'.

Pelletier lists 12 steps in his so called 'thought ninja edtech vision' that he believes all schools should follow in order to change what happens in the classroom:

- Understand why toolishness is foolishness – it's not about the tools – more tools don't make good teaching and learning!
- Apply the ISTE essential conditions rubric – where is your school positioned – essential conditions for good teaching and learning.
- Apply the concerns-based adoption model (CBAM) – gauge staff concerns and program use and provide necessary support.
- Combine the ISTE and CBAM models with the implementation bridge model – using these models to move staff from low levels of implementation to higher levels of implementation.
- Adopt the SAMR model – scaffolding your technology integration – moving from mere substitution to higher order thinking skills.
- Build a good and effective ICT team - teach them how to research
- Customise learning standards and models to your school culture
- Flip IT – moving away from maintaining technology to technology coaches who help support students with technology and thus help improve their learning. Basic tech skills now considered mandatory at Canadian International School using ISTE Standards
- Understand change facilitator styles and how to ignite change
- Strengthen your one to world program (one device – a world of resources). **All staff and students at CIS use Apple MacBook Pro and/or MacBook Air laptops in teaching and learning**.
- Bring on more tools to complement classroom activities.
- Reflect – research – replan – react – redevelop (continuous loop)

Pelletier closes by saying '**to me, bridging the technology gap is successful when our thought ninja edtech vision connects student tech culture to curriculum and students stop saying – I learned more on the Internet than at school**'.

Robotics Activist – Henry Evans

Keith Vallis (Director of Curriculum – ICT at Barker College) being chased by a drone controlled by Henry Evans (on screen) from Los Altos California USA

Henry Evans, married and father of four children, suffered a stroke-like attack in 2003 aged 40. The attack left Evans a quadriplegic and mute. **Evans tells his story in this TEDx presentation in 2013:** Meet the Robots for Humanity. Evans joined delegates in Canberra via video conference & answered questions via remote-controlled drone. Henry Evans is the inspiration and instigator behind the 'Robots for Humanity' project **extending the capabilities of people by filling in weaknesses and allowing people to perform at their best**.

Keynote – Michael Barnes

Michael Barnes (@mb_analyst) is **Vice President & Research Director** of Forrester Research. His keynote was titled '**Embracing Technology Disruption in the Age of the Customer**'. Barnes says that Australia is bad at assessing data and assessing information and translating it! He says that we are now in the **age of the customer**. The customer has more freedom and more choices than ever before and most of it at his/her fingertips **- where empowered buyers demand a new level of customer obsession**. Barnes says that being good at what you do is essential but no longer enough. A customer-obsessed enterprise focuses its strategy, its energy, and its budget on processes that enhance knowledge of, engagement with, customers and prioritises these over traditional competitive barriers. Customer obsession requires real investment in customer experience to build & maintain relationships. **In 2014, customers are increasingly mobile first – frequent access, from multiple locations using multiple devices. This is also true of schools and dealings with students, staff and parents**.

Conference Summary – Amanda Hogan

Amanda Hogan (@hogesonline) **ICT Integrator/Computing Teacher** TARA Anglican School for Girls was commissioned by the Conference Committee to publish doodle summaries of keynote presentations. Hogan's doodles can be viewed via the following links:

- Milton Chen Keynote
- Chris Woldhuis Workshop on PBL
- Mike Pelletier Keynote
- Keith Vallis with Henry Evans
- Michael Barnes Keynote