



# ICT SERVICES

Term 2 2014 – Vol.9 No.8

## EduTECH National Congress & EXPO – 2014



Mark Kelly and I attended and presented at the [4<sup>th</sup> Annual EduTECH National Congress & EXPO](#) held in Brisbane 3-4 June. The Congress attracted well-over 5,000 delegates and was held at the [Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre](#). The Congress included no less than 9 Congresses including: K-12 Educational Leaders; K-12 IT Directors and Managers. This ICT Services Newsletter summarises the Conference.

Michael Eggenhuizen | Director ICT

## Keynote – Dr Sugata Mitra



[Dr Sugata Mitra](#), Professor of Educational Technology [Newcastle University England](#), spoke about the 'Future of Learning'. He said that 'schools with their military/industrial/religious origins are outdated and obsolete'. **Current curriculum/pedagogy/examinations do not produce creative students.** He used his '[Hole-in-the-Wall](#)' experiment to explain his vision for the future of learning. **The experiment showed that children with no knowledge of computers or Internet could teach themselves & others very quickly with no adult help at all.** Mitra asked 'how far can it go?' Further experiments proved that **children were resourceful and creative learners on their own.** Mitra highlighted that punishments and examinations are seen as threats and that '**learning is lessened when children are threatened**'. Mitra spoke about [SOLE \(Self-Organised Learning Environments\)](#) and how Internet, students, collaboration, encouragement and admiration can lead to [creative learning](#). **Learning emerges from the edge of chaos.** Mitra spoke about his current project called '[School in the Cloud](#)' sponsored by the first ever 1 million dollar [TED Prize](#). He has setup 7 'cloud' classrooms in 7 schools (5 in India & 2 in UK) to explore [self-organised learning environments](#). Mitra invited all to make his dream a reality by helping him build the ultimate **School in the Cloud** where **children, no matter how rich or poor, can engage and connect with people around the world.** Other delegate summaries include:

- [Cathy Hunt - Summary](#) (Graphic)
- [Amanda Hogan - Summary](#) (Graphic)
- [Claire Amos - Summary](#) (Blog)

## Keynote – Anthony Salcito



[Anthony Salcito](#), Vice President for Education – Microsoft, began by saying that '**your students are learning without you**'. He said that this 'controversial' statement would not be so 'controversial' if you replaced the word 'learning' with 'reading' or 'working'. Salcito said that '**students don't grow up in the dark anymore**' and that '**schools need to move away from traditional classroom methods**', that it's '**all about collaboration & creativity**'. He said that we need to think about education [wholistically](#) and that teachers are key – **great teachers make for innovative teaching**. He spoke about the Obama led campaign for '[Teacher Education Reform and Improvement](#)' and that good teachers are needed to improve teaching and learning. **Schools need leaders that highlight: innovation; pedagogies for deeper learning; raise student expectations; question everything and expect more!** US Website: [Teaching Demands Exceptional Talent](#)

## Panel Session – Student Creativity



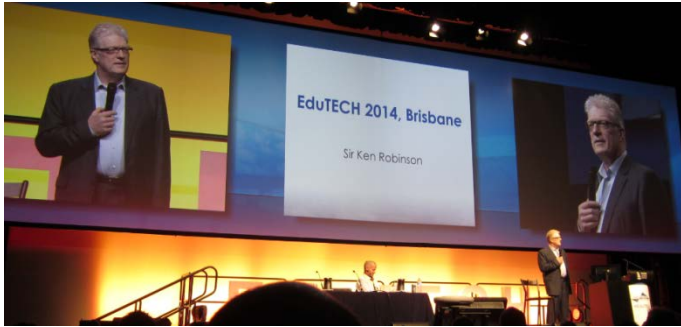
[Brett Moller](#), Director of Technology & Curriculum [King's Christian College Qld](#), led a panel session **highlighting the achievements** of 2 students: [Faith Ty \(Redlands College\)](#) & [Leio Ohshima McLaren \(King's Christian College\)](#). Faith, known by her alias '[Cypher](#)', was up against 900 Australian High School students in the [Triple J Unearthed High](#) competition. Faith, **one of 6 finalists**, demonstrated how she created her track '[Liar](#)' on [Garageband](#). Leio, **CEO/Founder of [AppApp&Away](#)**, **spoke about his passion for coding**. Leio, using Google to learn how to code, produced his first App ([Phonic Buddies](#)) at the age of 12. Leio, with the confidence of a professional conference speaker, said that '**restrictions within school curriculum have stifled creativity**'. He quoted [Sir Ken Robinson](#) saying '**creativity is lost as one progresses through the education system**'. Leio said that '**schools are loaded with busy work & not innovation and creation**'. He quoted [Sugata Mitra](#) saying '**it's not about making learning happen, it's about letting learning happen**'. Code today – Change tomorrow!



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## Keynote – Sir Ken Robinson



[Sir Ken Robinson](#), internationally renowned speaker on creativity in education, **spoke about transforming education**. Robinson said that education has become a hot global political issue in the last 15 years. He said that [PISA](#) was **ramping up anxiety about results** around the world and that we are all catching the cold, so to speak, from this [global education reform movement](#) (GERM). **Robinson says that we should all push back from this movement**. We are living in revolutionary times and **we need to think and behave differently**. He said that 10 years ago there was no [Facebook](#), [Apple iPads](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), etc and that change is accelerating – **what will the next 10 years look like?** Technology, he says, **helps extend our reach and helps us but can also restrict and cloud our judgement**. He spoke about our frustration if a Google search of billions of pages of information took longer than 15 seconds saying **‘Come on – I haven’t got all minute!’** Robinson compared current school education with the industrial age saying that **it’s all about yield and production rates**. A growing population throughout the industrial age meant that farming methods had to be industrialised to feed the people – poor conditions, poor food and animals pumped with antibiotics and hormones. **He says that school education is no different to industrial farming, it’s all about yield, output, PISA results and graduations**. Continuing his analogy, Robinson said that we have moved on from industrialised farming to organic farming and that we also **need to move from industrialised education to organic education**. Organic farming is all about health, ecology, justice and care – these principles need to be applied to school education. Robinson says that **‘output should be about the culture of the school & not results’**. He says that **‘great schools cherish diversity’** and that for most students ‘public education is their only education’. He says that a **‘revolution is needed from the ground up’** and that teachers have a big role to play in this regard. He says that **‘you don’t teach your kids to speak, they learn how to speak’**, **learning is an organic process which does not happen enough in schools**. Those that work in education need to transform education – to think differently – that the principles of culture, diversity, ecology, fairness, care and resilience be applied to organic education. **Robinson says that all students are creative and that human resources are buried and at times we need to dig deeper to find them**. He says that leadership in schools is critical – **good leaders encourage a school culture that allows their staff to do what they do best**. Other delegate summaries include:

- [Cathy Hunt - Summary](#) (Graphic)
- [Amanda Hogan - Summary](#) (Graphic)
- [Claire Amos - Summary](#) (Blog)

## Keynote – Ewan McIntosh



[Ewan McIntosh](#), teacher, speaker and investor, **spoke about agile leadership of learning**. McIntosh began by asking what makes a good leader and **demonstrated leadership styles of the great conductors**. **Agile leadership is about adapting to changing circumstances** – the ability to look and work beyond the 5-year plan. Students tend to work to annual plans. McIntosh asks what might be done to impact student learning. What’s the algorithm of great learning? **McIntosh says that agile leadership works with contradictions, tensions and surprises**. That as teachers we need to use what we know, work it out ourselves, meet the expectations that you are accountable for. McIntosh says that capturing students passions can be difficult. **He asks do students see the whole game. Peer feedback is important**. Leadership at its best comes from the school community. **Trust in your team – trust in yourself**. Other delegate summaries include:

- [Cathy Hunt - Summary](#) (Graphic)
- [Amanda Hogan - Summary](#) (Graphic)
- [Claire Amos - Summary](#) (Blog)

## Keynote – Ian Jukes



[Ian Jukes](#) spoke on ‘Education in the Age of Disruptive Innovation’. Jukes says that [disruptive technologies/innovations](#) are making our lives easier but jobs are disappearing. The new global worker not only has to compete with people but with machines. **He asks why education continues to cling to a curriculum from another era**. [Gamification](#) will transform the work place – students need a different skill set for the workplace. We can’t teach facts anymore because facts change too quickly - **education is now life-long, individualised and mandatory**. The education system is not broken, it is obsolete – **it no longer caters for the needs of future generations**. School is happening everywhere – students are visual learners – learning has to be increasing social. **Mobile devices will disrupt education** – big data is here to stay and will tailor learning to individual students. **Creative genius is in all students – teachers need to drive change in education – teachers are the paradigm and shift changers**. [Claire Amos - Summary](#) (Blog)