# ACode

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# from the president

ACODE continues to work hard for its' member institutions, advocating and sharing successful policies, strategies and practices for improving eLearning and eTeaching at Australasian universities.

We have run 3 very successful workshops with high quality content, presenters and tangible outcomes for members. We have also planned our first ever joint workshop with CADAD, which will help keep travel costs down for member universities. In addition we have introduced a number of new and exciting initiatives and activities.

## Advocacy and visits

- Evan Arthur, from DEEWR and chair of AICTEC, who addressed the November CAUL, CAUDIT, ACODE (CCA) Executive meeting;

- Chris Hancock, CEO of AARNET;

- Chief Executive Officer Dr Carol Nicoll, ALTC,

- Periodic meetings with Peter Coolbear of Ako Aotearoa and the NZ Ministry of Education;

- Discussions with a representative of NZ's Tertiary Education Commission and with the CEO of REANNZ (AARNET equivalent);

- Presidents of CAUDIT, CADAD, CAUL, and ascilite to promote an effective, collaborative approach to teaching and learning across the sector;

- In 2011, I will represent ACODE on the Tertiary eLearning Reference Group (TeLRG), a NZ national advisory body.

## Constitution

One of the most significant administrative activities for the year was the review and updating of our constitution. This process has taken more than a year but the results will streamline administration and clarify membership and entitlements. I thank all representatives, the Executive and particularly Dr Andrew Higgins and Associate ProfessorRob Phillips for their contributions to this mammoth task.

## Vale Alan Smith

The untimely passing of Alan Smith was a great shock to all who knew him and a huge loss to ACODE as well as to his family, university and the wide range of organisations with which he was involved. After a suggestion from the membership, the executive will institute an appropriate memorial event in Alan's honour in 2011.

## Keeping the Wheels turning – our Executive

The Executive met via web conference at least once a month, in addition to meetings at workshops, CCA meetings and other related ACODE activities. It has been a very busy year for the Executive members. They are involved in extensive consultation and review of all documents that are presented to ACODE or on ACODE's behalf, which this year has included the Annual Report, revised Constitution, Strategic Plan and 2011 Operational Plan, Memorandums of Understanding with CAUL and CAUDIT, and project proposals. They also liaise with conveners of workshops, consult to ensure the relevance of ACODE initiatives such as the Institutional Profiles and respond to requests from a range of bodies for input into submissions. I thank them for their hard work.

Congratulations to Assoc Prof Helen Carter and Ms Sarah Lambert on their re-elections as Vice President and Treasurer on the Executive for 2011. The Executive for 2011 is thus unchanged from the 2010 Executive:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Gordon Suddaby** | President, Massey University |
| **Helen Carter** | Vice President, University of New England |
| **Sarah Lambert** | Treasurer, University of Wollongong |
| **Ric Canale** | Executive member, LaTrobe University |
| **Stephen Marshall** | Executive member, Victoria University of Wellington |

## ACODE Secretariat

The ACODE Secretariat will continue to be hosted by University of Canberra in 2011, with Ms Karen Halley taking over from Ms Sue Hollands as Executive Officer from March 2011. I would like to thank the University of Canberra, and DVC(E) Professor Carole Kayrooz and Professor Gerlese Akerlind for their support which is greatly appreciated.



The ACODE executive hard at work on the Constitution and Business plan

# working collaboratively across the tertiary education sector

## CAUL, CAUDIT, ACODE (CCA)

The ACODE Executive has collaborated with CAUL and CAUDIT to update the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the three Councils, which was ratified by the July CCA Joint Executive meeting. The MoU confirms the agreement between the three Councils to exchange information and collaborate with a view to improving the learning and teaching, library, and information, communications and technology services provided to the students and staff of member institutions.

The November CCA meeting, hosted by ACODE, focused on e-Learning and identified ways in which the CCA Executives can further the e-learning agenda. Dr Evan Arthur, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), Chair of the Australian ICT in Education Committee (AICTEC), spoke to the meeting, providing the context for the eLearning discussion.

## CCA - Educause Australasia 2011

CCA - Educause is a joint CAUL, CAUDIT, ACODE initiative. ACODE is represented on the organising committee of CCA- Educause 2011 by Dr Ric Canale of La Trobe University and Dr Maree Gosper of Macquarie University, while Associate Professor Janne Malfroy of University of Western Sydney represents ACODE on the program committee.

Planning has already commenced for future CCA Australasia conferences.

## International Council of Open and Distance Education (ICDE)

In August the ICDE invited ACODE to become an Affiliate member of ICDE in recognition of ACODE's significance within the Australasian region. This invitation was accepted by the ACODE Executive, on behalf of ACODE, on September 7.

Associate Membership of ICDE will enable ACODE to provide its member institutions with a truly international perspective in relation to networking and the sharing of activities and resources. It will also serve to enhance ACODE's mission of providing leadership in the development of policy and practice in open, distance, flexible and e-learning within the Australasian higher education sector.

In turn, ACODE will provide ICDE with a strong regional presence and a platform to support ICDE's goals and objectives in the Australasian region.

## Horizon Report

ACODE was involved in the launch of the Horizon Report 2010, The Australasian and New Zealand Edition in Brisbane and jointly hosted the New Zealand launch in Wellington.  The New Zealand launch was sponsored by ACODE in association with Massey University, Ako Aotearoa and the NZ Ministry of Education and was held at Massey University on 29 September 2010, with Gordon Suddaby and Stephen Marshall representing the Executive and five ACODE representatives in attendance.  The launch of the report in NZ was a great success attended by 48 leaders in the field of technology-enabled education.

The ACODE Executive was represented by Sarah Lambert at the Australian launch, held at University of Queensland on 26 and 27 September 2010.

ACODE representatives involved on the board of the Horizon Report include Professor Geoff Crisp of Adelaide University, Mr Amgad Louka of RMIT, Dr Shirley Reushle of University of Southern Queensland, Dr Caroline Steele of University of Queensland, Dr Stephen Marshall of Victoria University of Wellington, Dr Kevin Ashford- Rowe of Griffith University and Associate Professors Mark Brown and Gordon Suddaby of Massey University.

The Horizon Report communiqué identified a number of initiatives arising out of the report and the launch workshop and ACODE will be involved in some of these.

## Learning Technologies Leadership Institute (LTLI) 2011

The Learning Technologies Leadership Institute (LTLI) is a biennial residential leadership program aimed at aspiring/new managers, both academic and non academic, who work with learning technologies in the Australasian Higher Education sector. It provides an extended professional development opportunity for current and future leaders of Learning and Teaching and e-learning units.

ACODE will again conduct this residential conference in 2011 on 21 to 25 August at Twin Towns Resort, Coolangatta. Emeritus Professor Tom Prebble will be the Institute Director.

For details see http://acode.edu.au/LTLI.php



The Emerging Technology Summit was held to co-incide with the Australian launch of the 2010 Horizon Report

# increasing leadership capacity through professional development



ACODE52 convenor
Dr Gary Williams
University of Tasmania

## ACODE workshops

ACODE workshops provide members with the opportunity to investigate issues of concern within the open, distance and e-learning agenda.  Recommendations from 2010 ACODE workshops are included in the 2011 ACODE Operational Plan and reports highlighting outcomes and recommended actions are available at: http://acode.edu.au/reports.php

## A new service

2010 saw the introduction of online conferencing sessions or webinars, run in association with ACODEs 53 and 54.  These enabled involvement by speakers and participants who were not otherwise able to participate in ACODE workshops and activities. The recorded session are available at: http://hub.acode.edu.au/course/view.php?id=5

## ACODE 52: *'Learner Profiles'* March 2010

Hosted by University of Tasmania; convened by Dr Gary Williams; attended by 39 people from 31 Universities and affiliated institutions.

A highlight of this workshop was the involvement of students who provided a valuable insight into their expectations of the blended learning experience. Guest academics responsible for providing high quality student centred blended learning experiences outlined their programs and participants investigated areas where eLearning has been able to address gaps in induction schemes and learning programs. Common areas where students need assistance were identified and this work informed the ACODE 53 workshop on blended learning.

A highlight of ACODE 52 was the opportunity to invite the founding president of ACODE, Professor David Rich and Mrs Rich , to attend the dinner as ACODE's guests. This gave us a wonderful opportunity to talk about the history and evolution with Professor Rich, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Tasmania.

## ACODE 53: *'Blended Learning'* July 2010

Hosted by Queensland University of Technology (QUT); convened by Elizabeth Greener; attended by 45 people from 34 Universities and affiliated institutions. Participants of this workshop experienced a range of the technologies used in blended learning, including the pre-workshop introductory webinars and the 'OWL' environment.

A big picture perspective was offered by Professor Peter Coaldrake, QUT, and Professor Tom Cochrane, QUT, talked about the challenges faced by many members of ACODE in roles within their Universities.  Dr Caroline Steel of University of Queensland and Dr Shirley Rueshle, University of Southern Queensland, provided information on the current scene in blended learning in Australasia and in Europe, while six academics from QUT and Griffith University shared examples of their innovative teaching practice and lead discussions of the identification of elements of good practice.

ACODE52 Business Dinner
attendees (above) including
Professor David Rich (below)



A campus tour of the new library spaces and flexible learning spaces in QUT provided a chance to see the spaces Dr Geoff Mitchell had described in ACODE 50.

### ACODE 54: *'Open Educational Resources'* (OER) November 2010

Hosted by Massey University (MU); convened by Gordon Suddaby; attended by 43 people from 29 Universities.

This workshop focused on open educational resources initiatives and there implications for tertiary education in general and universities in particular. The two pre workshop webinars explored open educational resources within copyright legislation in Australia and the implications for Institutions of Intellectual Property.

A big picture view of the higher education scene, 'From Open Courseware to Open Scholarship', was provided by Professor Jim Taylor, University of Southern Queensland. Professor John O'Neill, Massey University, provided a thought provoking presentation on 'OER, Ethics and Intellectual Property' and Dr Wayne Mackintosh, Director of The Open Education Resources Foundation, highlighted ways in which OER are being used to return to the core vocation of education, sharing knowledge freely. Jane Hornibrook, Creative Commons Aotearoa New Zealand, gave an overview of the implications of the six Creative Commons licences for the copyright holder and potential re-user. Dr Ben Kehrwald and Heather Lamond from Massey presented case studies of the use of open wikis in an online postgraduate course from the perspective of the lecturer and of the learner and Dr Eva Heinrich discussed the development process within Massey of the Lightwork application and the challenges of creating a user community.

**Actions arising** from the workshop include the formation of the OER for Assessment and Credit for Students Project, with the OER Foundation partnering with the University of Southern Queensland, and the formation of a project, lead by Dr Cathy Gunn of University of Auckland, investigating ways to move projects from innovation to sustainability.

### 2011 Workshops Program

The theme for **ACODE 55** is 'Enhancing the quality of student learning: Systems in place to monitor, evaluate and review' and will be a joint ACODE/CADAD workshop, hosted by Macquarie University and convened by Dr Maree Gosper of ACODE and Assoc Prof Ian Solomonides of CADAD on the 21 March 2011.
The **ACODE 56** will focus on 'Supporting and developing academic staff in the better use of ICTs to enhance the student's learning experience' This workshop will be hosted by Griffith University at its Gold Coast Campus on 30 June and 1 July 2011 and will be convened by Dr Kevin Ashford-Rowe.

'Sustaining innovation' will be the focus of **ACODE 57** and the workshop will be hosted by Charles Sturt University at its Bathurst Campus on 14 and 15 November. Dr Phillip Uys will be the convener.

# research and collaboration projects

ACODE has commissioned a paper discussing the origin of the ACODE Benchmarks and Professor Alistair Inglis is undertaking this work which will result in a scholarly paper outlining the process of the development of the Benchmarks.

Dr Stephen Marshall of Victoria University Wellington, is managing the next phase of the application of the eMaturity Model in Australia. The project emphasis is on implementation, collaborative support for the change process and generating a repository of best practice examples.

Dr Cathy Gunn, of Auckland University, is leading a group of ACODE representatives in investigating ways to move projects from innovation to sustainability. This project grew out of discussions at ACODE 54 and will report to ACODE 57 in November 2011.

ACODE has been involved as a partner organisation in two successful project proposals for 2010- 2011.

**Leading the design and implementation of quality management systems for Online Learning Environments (OLE) in Australian Higher Education Project,** lead by Deakin University. Outcomes regarding OLEs could be the focus of a future workshop. Work commenced on this project in November 2010.

**A literature review, presentation of case studies, creation of a data base, and analysis of regulatory frameworks in the Southwest Pacific/South East Asia Region**, lead by DEHub, University of New England, and including International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), ACODE and Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA). Work commenced on this project in October 2010 and an initial report was provided to the ACODE 54 workshop on open education resources.

# about ACODE

The ACODE website keeps members in touch with the latest news, and provides a quick login and link through to the ACODE hub (powered by Moodle). In the ACODE hub members can post questions and answers to forums, and links to workshop materials are provided to members.

## Our Mission

ACODE will promote, facilitate and support the attainment of excellence in teaching and learning in Australasian higher education through the enhancement of policies and practices for learning and teaching enabled by technology.

## Operational Objectives

ACODE will:

1  Develop and foster individual leadership and management capability within member institutions.

2  Provide leadership through policy and professional development initiatives reflective of teaching and learning changes enabled by technology.

3  Identify and share successful processes and frameworks for evaluating new and recurrent educational technologies.

4  Facilitate sharing of methods for bringing the student experience into the centre of our planning, deployment and evaluation of educational technologies.

5  Provide and support effective professional development activities.

6  Undertake the ongoing review and improvement of the effectiveness of its communications mechanisms.

7  Further develop and enhance relationships with key bodies and agencies.

8  Conduct and support a program of research and development relevant to open, distance and e-learning.

9  Gather and disseminate evidence regarding the Australasian and international environment that impacts upon our members.

10  Affirm and demonstrate its value to its membership.

The ACODE Operational Plan was again updated in 2010 to include recommendations for action from ACODE workshops.

See more details at:
http://acode.edu.au/council.php

## Membership

45 universities were Institutional members of ACODE in 2010. This is all New Zealand universities, the University of the South West Pacific and all but three Australian universities. Information relating to membership and representation can be found at:
http://acode.edu.au/membership.php

Affiliate Membership may be available to other higher education organisations in Australasia which are interested in open, distance and e-learning but which are not publicly funded universities. See details at:
http://acode.edu.au/membership.php

Associate Membership may be granted to such other associations and service agencies in Australasia interested in open, distance and e-learning as may be determined from time to time by resolution of the Executive.