Lindsay Thompson Fellowship

Winner

Louise Duncan
Shepparton High School
Hume Region

Transform learning with an iPod

ICT fan Louise Duncan has transformed learning at Shepparton High School using the humble iPod. She is considered an eLearning champion at Shepparton High where she has taught for seven years. Ms Duncan's tireless fundraising has enabled the school to increase its technology assets and successfully embed the use of ICT into the curriculum, with a strong focus on personalised learning through one-to-one technology – namely, the iPod.

Her determination and unstoppable enthusiasm to transform learning with technology has inspired schools across the nation and impressed other project participants in Singapore, USA and the UK.

She will travel to schools in the USA and UK to experience and document their findings in the use of ICT, first hand.

“My research will culminate in attending the Handheld Learning Conference in London – which is where this journey really began,” she said.

Ms Duncan has been working with the Etech Group, the global provider of the Studywiz learning platform, which won an innovation award at last year’s Handheld Learning Conference. Studywiz Mobile is the first full learning platform optimised for use on Apple’s iPhone and iPod Touch, and other handheld devices.

“We are the first school in Australia to trial the technology,” Ms Duncan says.

“My key motivator is to find people, resources and programs that are world best practice and bring them to Shepparton HS so that we can put together bigger and better programs,” she says.

Finalists

Jennifer Blake
Visiting Teacher Service (Vision Impaired)
Southern Metropolitan Region

Birsin Reynolds
Monbulk College
Eastern Metropolitan Region
Winner

Catherine Russo
Coolaroo South Kindergarten

Cathy Russo has worked in the children’s services field for more than 20 years and is currently working as director of Coolaroo South Kindergarten, which is located on-site at Coolaroo South Primary School. Her role includes community development work and assisting in networking with allied services, the development of a community hub and participation in the various Best Start and Communities for Children initiatives that have been established in the City of Hume. She will undertake a study tour to local and international services that have successfully established community hubs and have a significant positive impact on families in disadvantaged communities.

Finalists

Sofi Galanis
Wattle Hill Kindergarten

Maree O’Mahony
Knoxfield Preschool
Winner

Huong Thi Tran
Lalor West Primary School
Northern Metropolitan Region

Huong Tran arrived in Australia as a refugee from Vietnam at the age of 15. She spoke no English and seized educational opportunities to become a teacher and then a reading recovery tutor in the Northern Metropolitan Region. She has been a leading teacher at Lalor West Primary School since 2006 and has been instrumental in transforming teacher practice including explicit teaching, assessment practices and constructive and reflective feedback. Responsible for the curriculum from Prep to Year 6, she observes teachers teach and provides them with regular feedback, including lesson discussion, teacher reflection and evaluation, and planning for future improvement. Huong is keen to build upon her Master of Education studies by researching the types of feedback used by teachers and how that feedback is used to inform teaching practice and improve student learning outcomes.

Finalists

Christine Perera
Spring Valley Primary School
Southern Metropolitan Region

Jenine Threlfall
Maldon Primary School
Loddon Mallee Region
Winner

Brendan Murray

The Pavilion, Banksia – La Trobe Secondary College
Northern Metropolitan Region

Brendan Murray is the coordinator of the Pavilion School, an alternative education program that is attached to Banksia–La Trobe Secondary College and caters for disengaged and marginalised adolescents in the Northern Metropolitan Region. The Pavilion employs three teachers, two social workers and two ESO staff (both Year 12 graduates from the Pavilion) and has 60 full-time students.

Brendan plans to document the Pavilion experience and approach, and will visit other schools and institutions that create stimulating and high-achieving environments for disengaged adolescents. He is currently undertaking a Master in Education at Monash University specialising in school leadership, and will look towards training to complement these studies.

Finalists

Nathan Binks

Ouyen Secondary College
Loddon Mallee Region

Nola Cefai

Hawthorn Secondary College
Eastern Metropolitan Region
Winner

**Tracey Smith**  
Maryborough Education Centre  
Loddon Mallee Region

Business manager Tracey Smith currently leads a large team of School Service Officers at the Maryborough Education Centre, which has an enrolment of 1200 students. Tracey played an instrumental role to create the Maryborough Education Centre in 2005 through a merger of four schools and five campuses with 195 staff and 1420 students. It is the only P – 12 Centre in the State of this magnitude including a special school campus. Ms Smith lives by her motto ‘Aspire to inspire before I expire’, and continually shares information with colleagues and coaches staff to ensure their understanding is enhanced.

Her current project highlights the value of Australian female leaders.

Finalists

**Emily Hordern**  
Castlemaine Secondary College  
Loddon Mallee Region

**Corliss McBain**  
Mildura Secondary College  
Loddon Mallee Region
Winner

Courtenay Gardens PS, Cranbourne
Southern Metropolitan Region
Successful Writers Right Across a Network

Courtenay Gardens Primary School has created a unique program based on the research and methodology of Dr Douglas Reeves. Using a whole-school approach, the school improved learning outcomes by giving students an authentic writing experience: drafting the script for their very own daily television program, broadcast live from the school grounds. The Morning Show has proved highly engaging to students, resulting in reduced absenteeism and lateness and in the subsequent transformation of teaching and learning.

Multimedia and ICT are integral vehicles to promote student achievement and linkages to the global classroom. As a product of this outstanding model, Courtenay Gardens has led, promoted and supported the network, region and other schools across Victoria.

Finalists

Bellaire Primary School
Barwon South Western Region
Personalising Learning for 21st Century Learners – (Where To Next!)

Anne Mirtschin
Hawkesdale P–12 College
Barwon South Western Region
My global classroom – a virtual class in a digital world
Outstanding Education Support Team Award

Winner

Bendigo Senior Secondary College
Loddon Mallee Region
The core work of the seven-member School Service Officers team at Bendigo Senior Secondary College is to develop, manage and maintain the entire ICT infrastructure of the school. As well as building and maintaining the school’s public website and extranet system, the team provides audiovisual support and manages a range of servers including email, print, web and video servers. Team members maintain and support the use of over 500 networked desktops computers and 350 notebooks. They also provide significant support to NETschool, a program set up to re-engage young people back into education. Team members are often invited by teachers to share their expertise with students in the classroom.

Finalists

Gowrie Street Primary School
Hume Region

Langwarrin Primary School
Southern Metropolitan Region
Winner

Wallan Primary School
Hume Region

Alan Bentley has been principal at Wallan Primary School for five-and-a-half years. He heads a leadership team of six. At the beginning of his principalship, Alan believed more could be done to strengthen staff morale at the school. Alan Bentley and his leadership team have worked together to move Wallan Primary School from a priority school in 2006 to a school with high standards and excellent results. The leadership team has developed curriculum knowledge and coaching expertise to support teachers on their learning journey. Coaches work in classrooms modelling and coaching teachers. They have succeeded in building the capacity of the teachers to ensure outstanding results in student learning. The leadership team tracks student progress and provides teacher professional learning. Teachers at Wallan are comfortable with being observed by their peers and the literacy and numeracy coaches and there is a strong performance culture in the school.

Their plan is to further develop the leadership team and the seven curriculum leaders, with a focus on building relationships.

Finalists

Bellaire Primary School
Barwon South Western Region

Greythorn Primary School
Eastern Metropolitan Region
Outstanding School Leadership Award

Winner

**Colin Simpson**
Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School
Western Metropolitan Region

Colin Simpson has been principal of the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School since 2004. He has worked extensively developing visual arts education and the teaching of contemporary art in Australian schools and now leads a select entry school for dancers and musicians. He has led the school through a major building project and a complete restructure of the schools financial and staffing relationship with the University of Melbourne. He hopes that winning this award will enable him to further contribute to the development of the arts in education and specialism in schools. In June 2009, the school moves to its new world-class facility at 57 Miles Street, Southbank. All students leaving the VCA Secondary School receive full VCE, VET qualifications and the coveted VCA Secondary School Certificate of Dance or Music.

Finalists

**Michael Phillips**
Ringwood Secondary College
Eastern Metropolitan Region

**Kerrianne Souter**
St Georges Rd Primary School, Shepparton
Hume Region
Winner

Buninyong Primary School
Grampians Region

Buninyong Primary School is a multi-campus school with 560 students from 400 families. The school’s project, ‘The Story of Buninyong’, built an understanding of ‘our place’ and led to rich partnerships within the school community, with support by local businesses and community groups. Over three cultural days, children, parents, teachers, artists and environmentalists were invited on a journey with the local Indigenous community to learn about each other, the mountain, flora and fauna. An original musical score was created and performed by the whole school using visual art, song, dance and story telling. The ‘Story of Buninyong’ will become an ongoing performing arts project at the school.

Finalist

Winters Flat Primary School
Loddon Mallee Region
Pathways and Transitions Award

Winner

Ballarat Secondary College
Barkly Senior Campus
Grampians Region

Over the past three years the culture at the Barkly Senior Campus of Ballarat Secondary College has evolved around the concept of a pathways model designed to meet the needs of each student. 'Pathways', 'Learning' and 'Wellbeing' are the three key areas that are recognised in the school's model. Every teacher is a mentor teacher to a pathways group of Year 11 and 12 students, who benefit from forming a strong connection with a significant adult. Learning relationships are seen as essential to support flexible individual learning programs and future pathways.

Finalist

Bendigo Senior Secondary College
Loddon Mallee Region