

Marcus Ragus, Institute of TAFE Tasmania, Natural Resources, Australia

Sam Meredith, Daniel Dacey, Chris Richter, New England TAFE NSW, Teaching & Learning Support Unit, Australia

Anne Paterson, TAFE NSW, Centre For Learning Innovation (CLI), Australia

Alexander Hayes, Swan TAFE, Western Australia, Organizational Services Teaching & Learning, Australia

Marcus Ragus has been teaching within the VET sector for over twenty years and has been actively involved with technology for learning for ten of those years. He is committed to the fundamental principles of workplace training and has been actively acknowledged as a leader in the move to implement training packages as part of real-on-the-job learning. He has been a consultant to organizations and individuals, specialist committees and industry panels relating to learning innovation, product design and technologies to assist learning.



Sam Meredith has more than 20 years experience in provision of flexible education and training, within both the vocational education & training and university sectors. Sam was an Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) funded Flexible Learning Leader in 2002 researching systems for sharing and trading of learning resources.

Daniel Dacey has over fifteen years of teaching experience in areas ranging from networking to multimedia. He has worked in almost all areas of Information Technology, including network, PC support, systems analysis, document writing, Project Management and software development. Over the last three years Daniel has been involved with many TAFE related projects as a programmer. He has developed CD-ROM, web and PDA based applications for state and national projects. In the past year, Daniel has returned to industry, where he is leading a small team building cutting edge software and custom hardware for PDAs and tablet PC's, using GPS technology. Daniel is a Microsoft certified developer and partner.

Chris Richter is the Media Development Manager of Chris Richter Computer Services. Chris has qualifications in Music, Information Technology and Assessment and Workplace Training. Chris has over 6 years experience in developing Online/Web and CD-ROM based training materials. Chris has worked on various projects developing dynamic data driven applications, interactive flash applications and PPC PDA applications specifically tailored to the education sector. Over the past 4 years Chris has provided online learning support to staff and students, staff training in online platforms and media development workshops.

Anne Paterson is a workplace trainer and training consultant with over 20 years experience in general/vocational education training and instructional design. Anne has experience in providing consultancy services, content design, conference and workshop presentations and professional development in using mobile and wireless communication technology. Anne has tertiary qualifications in Training and Development and Workplace Training and Assessment.

The Australian Mobile Learning Network: Australian Innovations

This presentation will provide a unique and interactive snapshot of current mLearning initiatives within the education and training sector of Australia.

Mobile Learning: Hand Held Innovations in Flexible Learning , a National New Practices in Flexible Learning initiative, funded by the Australian Flexible Learning Framework and managed by the Institute of TAFE Tasmania.

The project examined the practical and cost effective application of handheld mobile technology (PDA) for the delivery of flexible learning in the workplace. Specialist applications were developed through a joint collaboration between the learning institution, industry, staff and the learners as well as key stakeholders from many industry sectors.

QTI m-Player: Question and testing interoperability (QTI) player for mobile devices. Selected businesses and registered training organisations (RTOs) around Australia will be the first in the world to use mobile learning in a secure environment.

It will allow the vocational education and training (VET) system to create assessing instruments for teachers and trainers to test students anywhere and anytime using mobile devices.

TAFENSW New England Institute: Another National New Practices in Flexible Learning initiative, which explored three initiatives for Handhelds:

- ◆ self-induction offsite by visitors - safety requirements of building sites, via dial-up to a website
- ◆ training and assessment in calibration skills for chemical mixing using interaction with a website
- ◆ GPS for personal interpretation of points of interest at sites such as zoos and botanical gardens.

Access and General Education Centre: TAFE NSW are in research trials engaging clients with mLearning initiatives including an interactive Mobile Film Festival, email SMS broadcast activities as well as Mo-blogging and Video-blogging for workplace assessment, general education and Indigenous culture and story telling.

Swan TAFE: Western Australia conducted research as a New Practices in Flexible Learning initiative, in conjunction with the Australian Flexible Learning Framework (AFLF) in 2004 in the 'TxtMe: Supporting Disengaged Youth Using Mobile Technologies' project explored the dimensions of SMS messaging in the retention of disengaged youth via a collaborative, networked learning environment.

Alex Hayes provides consultation services to organizations seeking competitive business solutions which integrate mobile technologies in an educational training context. Alex draws upon an extensive history of collaboration with government and non government education institutions, telecommunication industry specialists, industry training councils and community based organizations. Hayes tailors professional development programs to extend upon existing mLearning knowledge in flexible delivery settings, often integrating eLearning discussion forums, workshops, and interactive online events to demonstrate best practice.