

CORE Presidents Newsletter – August 2013

Exec meeting minutes

ACDICT AGM

AWPA ICT Workforce Study

Group X

ARC Laureate - Ian Reid

CORE Venue Portal progress

CORE ranked conference venues list

ACSW 2014

ACSW 2015+

Requests for CORE support

ERA 2015 + Impact

Exec meeting minutes

We've met a few times in recent months. A reminder that minutes are available off the CORE web site.

<http://core.edu.au/index.php/page/minutes>

I welcome suggestions for tasks for the exec / CORE in general!

ACDICT AGM

I attended the ACDICT AGM in Perth early July. This was an interesting meeting with discussions ranging from the current numbers enrolling in CS and IS programmes; teaching practices; the Australian ICT workforce survey; the launch of Group X to encourage ICT careers; ARC thinking and planning; and networking with various CS/IS Heads.

Some interesting presentations off the ACDICT page:

<http://www.acdict.edu.au/Events.htm>

AWPA ICT Workforce Study

This is very interesting reading (IMO):

<http://www.awpa.gov.au/publications/Pages/Publications-2013.aspx>

Group X

From Tony Koppi's ACDICT newsletter:

Invitation to Collaborate on Promoting ICT Skills with Group X National

Group X National is a \$6m program funded by the Commonwealth Government's Digital Careers Program through the Department of Broadband, Communication and the Digital Economy. The Group X National program will run from July 2013 through at least June 2017.

The program is aimed at increasing the number of tertiary ICT students (and, consequently, the number of ICT professionals) in Australia by

- *Promoting the ICT profession and ICT careers*
- *Encouraging involvement in activities that engage and hold student interest in*

ICT

- *Promoting improved ICT education in Australia at secondary and tertiary levels. Group X National's goals are closely aligned with those of the ACDICT ICT Skills Statement recently released at the ACDICT annual council meeting in Fremantle. Our joint intention is to use Group X National as a vehicle for realising a range of ACDICT's goals.*

Group X National is being implemented as a consortium led by NICTA and comprising other national research organisations, Commonwealth and State Governments, industry, professional associations (including ACS and AIIA), tertiary institutions (universities and TAFE) and other educational institutions. A National Steering Committee and State Committees will provide a significant governance mechanism for engagement between NICTA and consortium members and establishment of both strategic and operational directions for the project. The President of ACDICT has accepted membership of the National Steering Committee.

A pilot version of Group X has been running in Queensland since 2007. There is some evidence that ICT numbers in Queensland have increased at a rate above the national trend. At the same time, there have also been successful projects elsewhere in Australia. Our goal, most simply put, is to spread all the good stuff around by scaling up what works, and grow new projects where these will be most useful.

More detail on proposed Group X National activities is contained in the paragraphs below.

Promoting the ICT profession and ICT careers

This strand of activities is aimed at disseminating information about the range of ICT career opportunities, including salaries, career progressions, working with people, opportunities for travel and many other factors all designed to break down the negative stereotypes associated with ICT jobs and build a more positive – and more accurate – image of the profession.

Activities in this strand tend to be done in conjunction with the professional associations, industry and state governments, and include liaison with other national activities such as National ICT Careers Week, and the ACS Foundation Big Day In events.

Encouraging involvement in engaging activities

The focus in this strand is on activities that engage and hold student interest. A key element is reaching beyond students already interested in ICT and 'growing the pie'. It turns out that there are many excellent programs in Australia that do this, such as Young ICT Explorers, RoboCup, and FIRST technology. Many of

these programs, however, suffer from significant resource limitations, which inhibit scope or scale. The idea is to identify programs that have significant merit and then work with those programs to scale up in a context-appropriate way.

Further foci are around emphasising the engagement of young women, and reaching beyond 'traditional' tertiary catchments to low-SES, rural and indigenous communities.

Promoting improved ICT education in Australia

We have been presented with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform the teaching of ICT in schools. This opportunity comes from the rolling-out of the new national curriculum through the ACARA process. However, it is vital that we help our schools and teachers to get the most benefit out of this opportunity.

This strand therefore looks at efficient ways to offer training opportunities to large numbers of teachers, such as MOOCs, and also ways that technology can help to improve teaching in the classroom.

How can your institution get involved?

- 1. Help to identify existing activities that you know about – wherever they are from your state/territory, national or international that are going to engage and inspire young people. One of the first activities that will be built is a Web site that includes links to all of these worthwhile activities. Could you please send the information to Tony Koppi at ACDICT <EO@acdikt.edu.au> before the end of August 2013.*
- 2. Advocate for activities that are worthy for scaling up/expanding. The National Steering Committee will be putting a funding plan in place early next year. The activities might not be directly in the traditional ICT space – activities that promote entrepreneurship, or encourage students to explore the creative/digital intersection are as worthy of consideration as more 'traditional' activities such as robotics, game design activities, summer/winter camps, and so on.*
- 3. Join the Group X National Consortium. Benefits include the ability to shape activities in your state/territory through a seat on the state Group X committee, as well as having a strong voice in the national direction of the program. The larger the engagement in a particular state/territory, the more Commonwealth resources can be directed into that state/territory. Also, experience suggests that as institutions work together on this, the trusted networks that form are then useful for many kinds of other work. More details on how to join will be forthcoming later this year.*

For more information

Professor Simon Kaplan

Professor Leon Sterling

Chair, Group X National

President, ACDICT

simon.kaplan@nicta.com.au

lsterling@swin.edu.au

0411 511 122

ARC Laureate - Ian Reid

Congratulations to Ian from Uni Adelaide for his recent ARC Laureate:

<http://blogs.adelaide.edu.au/ecms/2013/07/10/prof-ian-reid-awarded-arc-australian-laureate-fellowship/>

Well done!!

Example for the rest of us - an ICT Laureate **can** be done! :-)

CORE Venue Portal progress

We (the CORE exec) had a demo of this a week or so ago. It was impressive! I hope an alpha (or even beta) version can be made available

CORE ranked conference venues list

Finally - I'm about to send an email about this...!

<http://core.edu.au/index.php/categories/conference%20rankings/1>

ACSW 2014

Reminder ACSW 2014 in Auckland (my home town!!) in Jan 2014.

<http://www.aut.ac.nz/study-at-aut/study-areas/computing--mathematical-sciences/beyond-the-classroom/acsw-2014>

ACSW 2015+

We ran an informal brainstorming session about future of ACSW. John Roddick collected feedback and developed a set of proposals.

Please have a look at these at:

http://corediscussions.shoutwiki.com/wiki/Future_of_ACSW

And please have your say !!! We are particularly interested in alternative plans / approaches that the CORE community would find more valuable.

Requests for CORE support

We have developed a policy for CORE support for events / activities - including small amounts of co-funding. Please see:

<http://core.edu.au/cms/images/downloads/documents/CORE%20Activity%20Grants%20Funding%20Proposal.pdf>

I will issue a "call for support requests" (I hope) very soon...

ERA 2015 + Impact

And finally - I've begun talking with the ARC about potential of citation

analysis vs peer review of conference venues for ERA 2015 (or whenever it might be). One option is using the (unranked!) conference venue list as the "indexed" venues. I will keep you all apprised of discussions in this space.

Not unrelated, but different - the sector has been asked for input on potential "Impact" evaluation, whether as part of ERA or separate. Details here:

<http://www.innovation.gov.au/Research/Pages/ResearchImpactAssessment.aspx>

Also well worth a read!!

I thought about a CORE submission but just couldn't work myself up to it...

All the best and happy teaching & researching!

John

--

Professor John Grundy FASE FIEAust
Deputy Dean, Faculty of Information and Communication
Technologies
Swinburne University of Technology
PO Box 218
Hawthorn, Victoria
Australia 3122

Ph: (+61 3) 9214 8731

Fax: (+61 3) 9214 5916

Email: jgrundy@swin.edu.au

WWW: <http://www.ict.swin.edu.au/ictstaff/jgrundy>