



Western Metropolitan Region Macintosh Schools Network

Notes from our last Get-Together!

Many, many thanks to all those people who came along to our first meeting of the Mac schools network. It was great to meet up with other like-minded colleagues, to get to know each other and share the ups and downs of living in the apple world!

Robert Stojcevski from ComputersNow (Apple) in South Melbourne attended the meeting to offer his expertise and support.

The talk was fast and enthusiastic, so rather than the traditional type minutes, I have jotted down the topics we discussed and tried to include as many of the web sites and resources people shared as possible. I hope the resources are useful and we see you all again at our next get-together!

Details for our next meeting on Thursday July 31st are written below.

Deb

1. Notebooks for Teachers Program

The difficulty in getting apple laptops was discussed and how hard it can be to get the correct information about what configurations, etc are available.

Notebook queries should be directed to:

Tony Potas, PH: 9613-5146 FAX: 9616-0974 potas.anthony.j@edumail.vic.gov.au	Venessa Mujica PH: 9616-0968 FAX 9616-0974 mujica.venessa.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
Amy Van Langenberg PH: 9616-0966 FAX: 9616-0974 notebook@edumail.vic.gov.au	Louise Kuchmar PH: 9616-0956 FAX: 9616-0974 notebook@edumail.vic.gov.au

Who should we contact for help with notebook problems?

- Robert suggested we ring ComputersNow and talk to their support team: 9684-3600
- Membership with AUSOM (Apple Users of Melbourne) was also suggested.

<http://www.ausom.com.au/>

2. TSI – Technical Support

The issue of TSI support in Macintosh schools generated a lot of discussion, with most members feeling the initiative is less than adequate. Many schools would like to be given the money and the ability to choose their own technicians. Given that change to the current structure is unlikely in the short term, we would like to see current TSI's receive significant and ongoing Macintosh training. Mark, Peter and Deb will continue to voice these concerns at WMR Dotcom Meetings. For more information on the TSI program, contact the Technical Support Initiative team on 9637-3774, or tsi@edumail.vic.gov.au

3. Apple support for Macintosh Schools

Robert asked the group how he and ComputersNow could best support the group in particular and Mac schools in general. He offered professional development sessions that could be run at a school or in at Apple. The group seemed most interested in Macintosh Manager training and/or setting up OS X servers and agreed to formalise a topic at the next meeting for a PD session in term 4. Many thanks to Robert and ComputersNow for the generous offer!

Most of the schools present are using Macintosh Manager/Workgroup Manager to manage their networks. The following web sites offer support in using the software:

<http://homepage.mac.com/roodavis/macmanager.html>

<http://macmgr.com/>

<http://www.info.apple.com/usen/mm/>

<http://homepage.mac.com/brianjudd/>

Where schools have a dual platform network, the following web site offers some Macintosh - Windows integration solutions:

<http://www.macwindows.com/>

For more general Macintosh information and support, people have found the following web sites useful:

<http://discussions.info.apple.com/>

<http://www.interactivepages.com/macfreak/SystemProblems.html>

<http://everymac.com/>

4. Software

The issue of good software was raised and where to find manuals, help guides etc for the software people already have – in particular iMovie. The Missing Manual web site was offered as a great resource for many software programs.

<http://www.missingmanual.com/cds/>

iMovie Tutorials and Plug-ins can be found at these web sites:

<http://www.atomiclearning.com/>

<http://www.apple.com/imovie/>

<http://www.geethree.com/>

The following is the (very long) web address at which you can find handouts from the Apple iMovie Professional Development available for download. Remember to type in the password: family

<http://homepage.mac.com/WebObjects/FileSharing.woa/wa/login?cookieValue=YRO CdvJ+k+v+C6kkSlvgwAC17zs&requestedURL=/anthonyc5/FileSharing7.html>

These Australian Software Companies produce quality programs used by many Mac schools:

<http://www.rushsoftware.com.au/>

<http://www.greygum.com.au/>

5. Copyright Information

The question of copyright was raised in particular the use of music in iMovie presentations and where we stand. Views varied on this issue, but it was generally felt that music could be used for non-profit purposes if the school owned a copy of the CD. To be sure, the new Schools Reference Guide has a section on Software Copyright and can be found at:

<http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/referenceguide/>

6. Freeware & Resources

For those on a tight budget, the following web sites offer *free* software, music, etc.

<http://www.freeplaymusic.com/> (copyright-free music)

<http://www.kidsdomain.com/> (software & games)

<http://exp.tukids.tucows.com/index.html> (software & games)

<http://www.freemacfonts.com/> (fonts)

<http://www.virtualteacher.com.au/> (Aust. e-newsletter subscription with loads of ideas)

7. Kid-Friendly Internet Sites

I have found the following web sites successful in lessons, particularly for the juniors. Most are games web sites. Perhaps we can develop a list of web sites people have found useful??

<http://www.webblies.co.uk/select.html>

<http://pbskids.org/>

<http://www.squiglysplayhouse.com/index.html>

<http://www.gridclub.com/>

<http://www.pawisland.com/>

<http://www.computerlab.kids.new.net/>

8. Multiple Intelligences Software Resources

As the focus now is on Multiple Intelligences, the following web site organises programs appropriate to each intelligence.

<http://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/curriculum/MISmart/MISoftwr.htm>

9. Email List of Group Members

An email list of group members will be sent out, so that help is only a click away!

Question for next meeting:

A number of people are looking for cost-effective printing solutions.

What type of colour printers do you have?

How do schools provide printing facilities? Colour? Networked? Inkjet? Laser?

Next Meeting...

Mark Richardson will host our next meeting on:

Thursday July 31st

4pm – 5:30ish

Go to the front door of the bluestone building at
Williamstown Primary School,
Cecil Street, Williamstown.



Glen Yates, the Education Consultant (K-12) for Apple Australia will speak to us about Apple's support for Education, particularly in Primary Schools.

Please let either Mark or myself know if you will be coming along, so we know how many coffee cups and bikkies to buy!!

Thanks and Happy Surfing ☺

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