



# Western Metropolitan Region Macintosh Schools Network

Notes from our last Get-Together!  
9/9/04

Thanks to everyone, who came along to our meeting at Yarraville West Primary School.



Details for our next meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October are written below.

Thanks,  
Deb and Mark.

## 1. Apple Support

Concern was raised over the impact recent job losses at Apple Australia, particularly the Education Consultants from the Melbourne office, would have on the level of support we could expect from Apple in the future. Emails and phone calls to Apple have resulted in the disappointing news that Education Consultants would no longer be based in Melbourne and that the Sydney-based consultant would travel to Melbourne for 2 days each fortnight. As such, he would only be available to support Melbourne's CBD schools [sic]! Further to this, we have heard that Apple Australia has no plans to support K-12 schools as the business would be better targeted at tertiary institutions and commercial interests. Primary and secondary schools are advised to contact their resellers for the support they need. This position remains unconfirmed as our phone calls and emails have gone unanswered, as have requests to attend one of our network meetings.

The group believes that Macintosh schools need a point of contact at Apple and that it is not the job of the reseller to provide professional development for teachers. In discussing what action we could take, a suggestion was made to write letters of protest to Apple's new CEO. This will be discussed further at our next meeting.

## 2. Garageband

It was our intention to run a Garageband workshop at our first meeting for term four, run by Tony Maguire. This has been postponed to 2005. Tony is no longer working for Apple and has now started his own company; Core Consulting.

## 3. Professional Development Packages 2005

In recognising that our self-generated network provides one of the few professional development options for teachers in Macintosh schools, we discussed how we could extend our offerings to fee-for-service (and cheap!) PD packages. Deb offered to look into some of the issues and bring this back for discussion at the next meeting.

## 4. Web Site Review

Mark took the group through the Macintosh Schools Network web site and discussed the distributed, web site Privacy Policy.

The motion was put:

“that the group accept the Privacy Policy as is and endorse the web site.”

Moved: Tony Sullivan

Seconded: Steve Palmer

With this, the web site was officially launched over champagne and nibbles!

A very big Thanks to Mark Richardson and James Holt for their work on the set up and maintenance of the web site!!!!

Check out our web site at:

<http://wmr-msn.williamstownps.vic.edu.au/>

## 5. YWPS School Tour

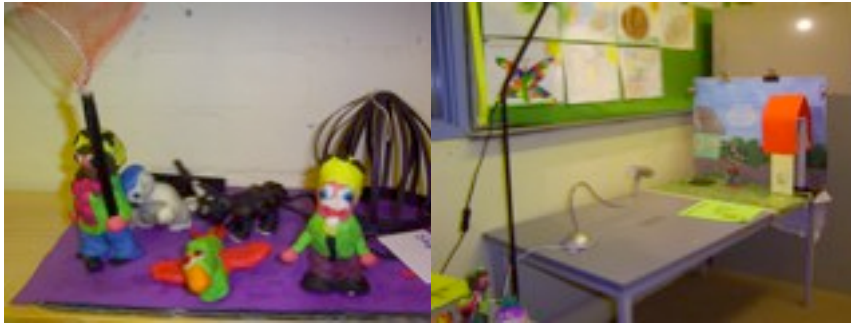
Tony Sullivan took the group on a tour of Yarraville West's computer network, in particular pointing out his outstanding Macintosh Museum!

See the photos at the gallery on our web site!

<http://wmr-msn.williamstownps.vic.edu.au/photogallery/tony/index.html>

## 6. iStopMotion

Tony took us into a withdrawal area he has set up as workroom for students to complete Claymation projects, using the application iStopMotion. Three workstations have been set up in the workroom, which is dedicated to the production of Claymation. Each workstation includes a student table, 2 chairs, an eMac, a lamp, iSight camera, a 'stage' and a bookshelf for storage of clay figures. Student storyboards for the claymations are displayed above the stage for reference during production. The impressive setup provides a very inexpensive and effective work area. What a great job, Tony! Thanks for sharing it with us.



iStopMotion is produced by the Boinx company in Germany.

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

Check out this web site:

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

Available in Australia from:

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



## Next Meeting...

When: Thursday October 14th, 2004.  
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Where: Williamstown Primary School,  
Cecil Street, Williamstown. 3016

The meeting will include a school tour, [including future plans for ICT in the school's rebuilding program] and how to use a school website & intranet to enhance student learning, staff resources and parent communication.

There will also be further discussion of the network's exciting ICT Professional Development Plans for 2005.

The meeting will be hosted by Mark Richardson, [ICT coordinator], at Williamstown Primary School.

Coffee & nibbles etc., provided