

Catholic Education RECOGNISED

Illawarra Business Chamber Excellence in Education Award 2005



Peter Fogarty, Greg Whitby and Gary Brown



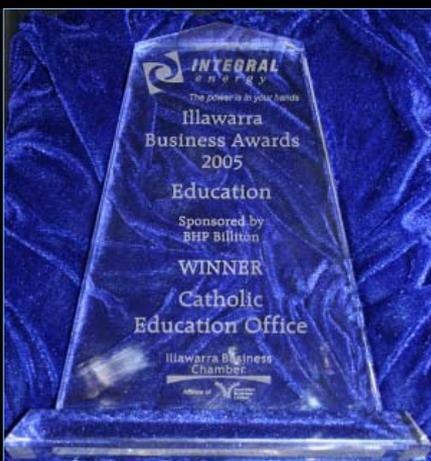
Professor Gerard Sutton, University of Wollongong with Greg Whitby



David Olsson, Campbelltown Catholic Club; Tony Abela, Diocesan Church Offices; and Catholic Education Office Staff.



David Olsson, Campbelltown Catholic Club with Greg Whitby



Church Agencies & Schools Technology Network (CASTnet), our Information Communication Learning Technologies (I.C.L.T) tool for building connected learning communities was recognised by the Illawarra Business Chamber last Friday 18 November 2005 for its capacity to support the provision of quality learning and teaching in the digital age.

Judges for the awards, praised CASTnet for its capacity to support teachers in meeting the demand for improving learning outcomes of all students by using proven existing technologies in a creative and dynamic way. The network infrastructure's success lies in the fact that it was designed from educational basis, not a technical basis and therefore puts teachers in charge of the technology in each and every learning space. Learning drives CASTnet, not technology.

CASTnet is the foundation of an emerging national ICLT infrastructure known as Catholic Education Network (CEnet). This network is a fully managed I.C.L.T infrastructure not only connecting all the systemic Catholic Schools in the Diocese but also over 400 schools across Australia.

CASTnet provides an integrated Learning Management System with a range of communication tools, managed and filtered internet capability and a sophisticated integrated learning environment known as myclasses. These tools provide teachers, students and parents with twenty first century tools for a twenty first century learning experience.

As teachers become increasingly more familiar with CASTnet they are developing innovative and dynamic lessons for students that are helping to reframe their schooling experience. Learning is becoming more collaborative, space and time are becoming negotiable, teachers are sharing and learning with their students and each other through an individualised learning approach, and schools are better meeting the needs of all students.

CASTnet was a finalist in two categories, Education and Innovation. The Illawarra Business Chamber Awards are the peak recognition for outstanding achievement by all businesses in the region. In fact these awards are the largest Regional Awards of their type in Australia. Information is available at: <http://www.illawarrabusiness.com/index.pl?page=840>

Every school can feel a sense of pride in this achievement. The award recognised the talent and commitment of all who work in and on behalf of Catholic Schools in the Diocese. It is a fitting recognition of our commitment to the young people we service.