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Member Dioceses

The Diocese of Armidale

The Diocese of Bathurst

The Diocese of Broken Bay

The Diocese of Cairns

The Archdiocese of Canberra –
Goulburn

The Diocese of Lismore

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

The Diocese of Parramatta

The Diocese of Rockhampton

The Archdiocese of Sydney

The Diocese of Toowoomba

The Diocese of Townsville

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga

The Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes

The Diocese of Wollongong

Connecting Catholic Communities

CEnet is pleased to publish this second issue of CEnet News.

There has been a lot of exciting activity since the last CEnet 'News' and we have captured some of the highlights for you in this issue. CEnet provides managed ICT services to support the education needs of 15 dioceses across 3 states and territories and connects over 330,000 students and teachers, and schools. Staff in Member Dioceses are finding innovative ways of enhancing learning and teaching using these services and in this issue we highlight the value that CEnet is providing to Members and in particular the great opportunities that access to high quality video conferencing facilities is delivering.

We hope that you will find this newsletter informative. We were delighted with the interest shown in our first issue and continue to welcome your comments and suggestions. Comments can be sent by email to info@cenet.catholic.edu.au.

CEnet in the News

The activities of CEnet have been attracting quite a bit of interest since the last CEnet 'News'.

In Early August Ian Gregory, CEnet's Manager of IT Systems was invited to write an article in the official Google Blog about how CEnet and Member Dioceses were using Google Apps. You can read the article by following the link located in the [news section](#) of the

[CEnet website](#). Ian's blog posting generated a number of additional articles in other online publications.

You can find links to all associated the articles on the [CEnet website](#).

CEnet Achievements Recognised

The achievements of CEnet were recently recognized, through the organisation being selected as a finalist in the Information Technology division of the Illawarra Business Awards. All companies nominated as finalists were considered outstanding in their chosen fields, and the IT category was hotly contested by several innovative companies. While CEnet didn't take out the 'gong', selection as a finalist was a great achievement for a young company.



CEnet Website

Visit CEnet online for up-to-date information about activities designed to support learning and teaching in member schools.

Go to: www.cenet.catholic.edu.au for more information

The Benefits of Email Filtering

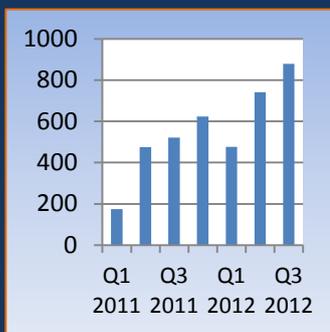
CEnet assists dioceses by providing a centrally hosted email filter service which traps a huge volume of unsolicited email before it gets to schools. The statistics below are from July 1 to September 30 2012 and show what a useful service this is.

Total messages received:
112,591,010

Total Threat Messages: 103,733,113
(92.1%)

Clean Messages: 8,857,897 (7.9%)

CEnet Video Conference Growth 2011-12



Hours per term

1,794 video conference hours in 2011.
2,096 hours in the first 9 months of 2012.

Delivering Value for Members

Video Conferencing in Wagga

The High Definition video conferencing service provided by CEnet has rapidly become very valuable to dioceses. It provides a means by which staff can participate in cross-diocesan activities, opens new opportunities for learning and teaching, and significantly reduces travel time for personnel attending meetings.

Video Conferencing provides a valuable service in the Wagga Diocese and the return on investment is already being realised. Video conferencing has begun to have a significant impact upon the nature of contact and collaboration for staff across our diocesan offices and schools. Daily use of video conferencing for collaboration between Wagga, Sydney, Wollongong and Broken Bay Dioceses for the current payroll project has saved numerous hours of travel and airfares that would have otherwise been required to facilitate this project.

In the past 18 months video conferencing use in our diocese has continued to increase - we have recently purchased individual Jabber/Movi licences to provide mobile access to video conferencing to all school principals and our CSO education team. The recent addition of an iPad Jabber client presents further interesting possibilities for high quality video conferencing on the go. Through CEnet we have also established a number of virtual meeting rooms (VMRs) to enable multiple simultaneous conferences to be held within our diocese. Recently we have been collaborating with the Riverina Conservatorium of Music to explore the use of Video Conferencing in music teaching.

*Michael Vineburg
Head of ICT/ICLT*

Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Wagga Wagga

Infrastructure as a Service for Toowoomba

In March 2011 the Toowoomba Catholic Education Office connected all schools and CEO offices into a single Wide Area Network (WAN).

This was the first time the schools had reliable connections into a managed network. Since then we have been increasing our service portfolio and the integration within all of our systems.

Very early on, we decided to virtualise all new

servers with VMware being the chosen platform. We identified 3 possible implementations which were:

- Expansion of our small data in-house centre
- Co-locate in the CEnet data centre
- Utilise the Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) CEnet model

We chose IaaS through CEnet because as a small diocese we would never be able to economically replicate the infrastructure of the GlobalSwitch data centre in conjunction with the CEnet UCS infrastructure.

Our Phase One migration includes all services delivered to the schools. We currently have 10 live servers, 8 additional servers in various deployment states and another 6+ servers still to be initiated.

The service, support, expertise and reliability of the CEnet datacentre has been excellent over the past 12+ months. We will have no hesitation in expanding our footprint, by migrating all systems to the IaaS service provided through CEnet.

Chris Smyth

Toowoomba Catholic Education Office

Inter-Diocesan Sharing

During October, CEnet hosted a two-day Google Bootcamp for eLearning specialists from thirteen Member Dioceses at the Polding Centre in Sydney.

The intensive workshop was delivered by staff from the CEO Sydney and was based on the highly successful [CloudShare](#) program that the team has been rolling out to schools in the Archdiocese.

Participants had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the use of Google Apps as a means of enhancing the learning and teaching process and found innovative ways to share resources across dioceses.

Many thanks to Diane Brook, Greg Basford and Greg Swanson for the time and effort they put into delivering this great cross-diocesan event.



Member Activity

Wollongong Diocese Spotlight on Technology

The recent Diocesan Spotlight on Technology Showcase and Expo was a wonderful celebration of technology for learning across the Wollongong Diocese. The conference provided a unique opportunity for many rich conversations relating to students and learning – in particular about devices, infrastructure, applications and tools and the benefits these have on student learning opportunities and outcomes.

The showcase and expo was well attended with more than 170 delegates including Principals, AP's, Learning Technology Coordinators and Teachers across the Diocese.



In officially opening the Spotlight Showcase and Expo, Director of Schools, Peter Turner (pictured above) said, "The main reason for planning and running an event such as this is because it's all about our students and their learning." It was fitting then that the program commenced with a panel of students who presented the student voice across the Diocese (pictured right).

The opening Keynote address by Andrew and Gaia Grant was highly engaging, relevant and thought-provoking. As authors of the book *Who Killed Creativity?* They spoke

about the importance of innovative solutions to problems and challenges in all endeavours, including schools and student learning.

Another highlight was the Teacher Spotlight sessions where more than 25 teachers shared their ideas and expertise across a wide range of tools and technologies that support learning in their classrooms.



Special thanks to the members of the Student Panel from Year 6 at St Columbkille's Parish Primary, Year 12 at John Therry Catholic High School, Year 8 at Mount Carmel Catholic High School, and Year 10 at Corpus Christi Catholic High School.

The Spotlight on Technology Showcase and Expo was an outstanding success and the result of a great partnership between the Catholic Education Office's Information and Communication Learning Technologies team and the Curriculum and Pedagogy team.

*Sherryn Moore
Education Officer- Learning Technologies
CEO Wollongong*



Sydney Goes Google!

The CEO Sydney has moved quickly to adopt Google Apps as a set of tools to support innovative 21st Century learning and teaching in schools.

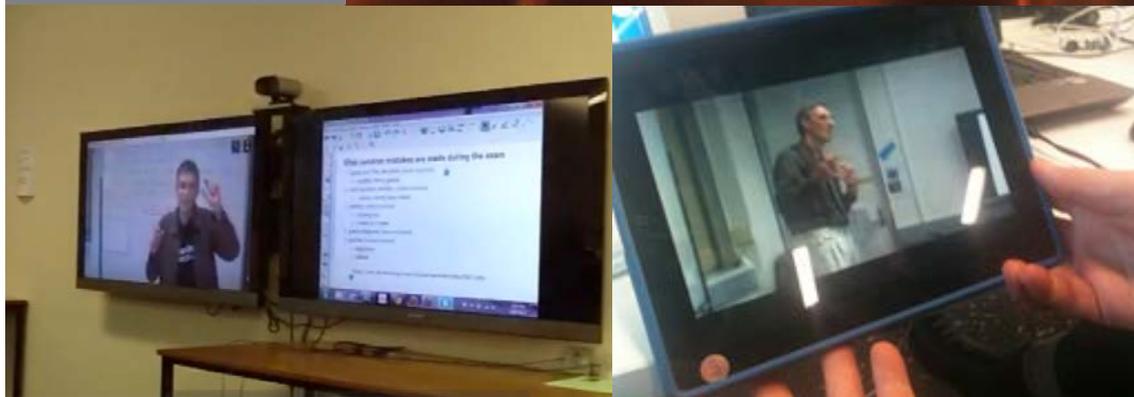
To ensure a smooth introduction, CEO eLearning staff developed a phased approach to implementation with schools initially selected to participate in a pilot, enabling refinement of plans prior to full release.

As part of the process, eLearning consultants developed a resource they have called CloudShare, which provides access to a broad range of information designed to support school use of Google Apps.



Pictured here are Year 5 Teacher Katy Brennan and Principal Tony Boyd with students from St Christopher's Catholic Primary School in Holsworthy Going Google! More information about the Sydney CloudShare resource is available at <http://cloudshare.syd.catholic.edu.au/>

Greg Basford
eLearning Project Officer
Catholic Education Office, Sydney



Technology in Learning

Greg Whitby, Executive Director of Schools, Diocese of Parramatta and CEnet Chair, recently met with Tom Mills, Google's Global Director Enterprise Education in San Francisco. Here is an extract from Greg's blog, blueyonder (<http://blueyonder.wordpress.com>)

"Curiosity is king – the tools are just the tip of the iceberg; teachers need to unlock the potential of the technology and enable learners to do the same; curiosity is part of the fundamental 21st century skillset for today's learner."
Tom Mills

"It was great to hear this from a leading global expert in technology. For us it reinforces what we already know: as educators we can't use technology in isolation or as a 21st century substitute for teaching.

HSC Masterclasses by Video Conference

The CEO Sydney recently took advantage of access to High Definition videoconferencing to run a series of Masterclasses in English, Maths and Science, for students aspiring to achieve Band 6 in this year's HSC.

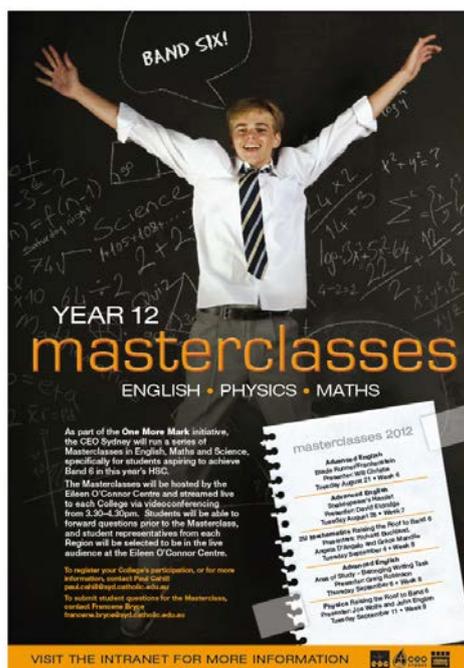
The 2012 HSC Masterclass Video Conference Sessions were organised as a joint initiative of the CEO Secondary Curriculum team and the Eileen O'Connor Centre at Lewisham. The Masterclass presenters included lecturers from both Sydney and NSW Universities as well as subject matter experts from within the organisation.

The initiative stemmed from the "One More Mark" Project which was developed as a strategy for enhancing the academic potential of students studying for the HSC in Catholic schools.

Students gave up their time to participate in these video conferenced Masterclasses from 3.30 to 4.30pm on Tuesday afternoons in late August and early September. The most impressive attendance included over 360 students from 28 different sites and a live audience at the Eileen O'Connor Centre at Lewisham. This has been one of the most successful video conference projects to date and the support of

the CEnet team helped ensure that this large scale event went smoothly. Video conferencing in the Sydney Archdiocese has steadily grown in the last few months, with over twenty, large scale, video conference sessions experienced in schools in the three weeks to Sept 11.

Greg Swanson
eLearning Senior Project Officer
Catholic Education Office Sydney



Questions & Answers

Q: Can I join a video conference from my mobile device?

A: With the growth in use of mobile devices in the learning and teaching process, students and teachers have access to information and resources without being restricted to sitting at a desk, so why should access to video conferencing be any different?

In mid-July 2012, Cisco announced Jabber for iPad. Within days of the announcement, CEnet had tested and implemented the solution. Students and staff who have their devices connected and have Jabber software installed, can now participate in video conferences with

Android, iOS and Windows devices.

The business of learning and teaching is not Google's; it's ours. We need to put in the hard yards to unlock the potential of current and emerging technologies to better serve our work as teachers and our students."

Greg Whitby

Upcoming Events 2013

CEnet AGM

May 22

CEnet Board Meetings

February 20

March 20

April 24

May 22

July 24

September 18

October 23

IT Steering Committee

April 4

June 21

August 23

October 4

Education Services Standing Committee

March 4

May 7

August 5

October 8

Corporate Services Standing Committee

March 7

June 6

September 12

Audit and Risk Committee

March 28

July 3

October 3

Images: Top right: Video from the NASA Space Centre

Bottom right: Students engaged in the Reef HQ virtual excursion

Middle left: Participants in the NASA Space Centre event

Science Week Video Festival

Schools in the Sydney Archdiocese are being given the opportunity to participate in activities that would never have been available prior to the introduction of High Definition video conferencing.

Schools are using High Definition equipment in the classroom and taking advantage of the shared infrastructure provided by CEnet to create 'windows' into exciting activities and events around the world.

As part of Science Week in August the CEO Sydney sponsored a series of Video Conferences in Schools. Schools had to apply for the opportunity to participate in the program by linking their Video Conference choice to the units of work they were studying in classes. The uptake was enthusiastic as schools vied for the available spots. The overwhelming choice of destination was split between the [NASA Space Centre](#) in Houston and the [Reef HQ](#) Townsville.



Sydney CEO School Experiences Reef HQ Video Conference

On the 24th of August, the Year 11 Biology and Senior Science Classes at De La Salle Revesby were privileged enough to go to the Great Barrier Reef with the use of video conference technology linking us to Reef HQ in Townsville Queensland.

During this conference, the students interacted with two members of the organisation. One of these members was seated in a conference room while the other was actively diving in one of the organisation's magnificent marine tanks.

Both members served to be excellent guides, who spoke to the students about the various marine organisms that were found inside the tanks, and



gave a detailed explanation of how they impacted on one another, all this whilst we watched as fish and even sharks gracefully swam past on our screen. Their roles were expanded further by taking the questions of the inquisitive students who, not only developed the questions in advance, but also were inspired during the conference.

"The use of this technology has greatly helped us to gain a better understanding of the reef ecosystem. It felt like we were literally there underwater swimming with the fish, coral and sharks!"

This video conference served to be productive and extremely intriguing. This can be credited to the brilliance of the presenters and the fact that all of the footage being seen was live, thus evoking a sense of firsthand experience.

The conference served as a fascinating new way of learning, and proof that technology is having a positive impact upon education. All students agree that this conference was enlightening and exciting, and it is a certainty that they would thoroughly enjoy another conference.

Many thanks to Ms Doyle, Mrs Chisholm, Reef HQ and the Catholic Education Office for making this possible.

*Written by
Nicholas Lewandowski and Ryan Yerbury,
Year 11, De La Salle Revesby*



Staff Profile



Name: Adam Thurtell

Position Title: CENet Systems Engineer

What does your job entail on any given day?:

We look after a vast variety of systems hosted within CENet's IaaS. Primarily I focus on VMware, NetApp, and DNS.

How long have you been with CENet?

I have been with CENet since January 2011.

What do you like most about working for CENet?

I love that you can see a project built from an "idea" to a fully supported live system. You are not pigeon-holed to one area - you work on so many different areas of the project to get it up and running. It's the sense of pride and satisfaction that you have had a "hand" creating a project that makes a huge difference to all of CENet's Members. It makes it all worthwhile when you work with a bunch of enthusiastic, smart, and intelligent bunch of mates that all have unique specialized skills in a variety of areas such as Networking, Systems, and Management.

Where were you born?

Wollongong, NSW

What do you spend your time on outside of CENet?

Playing the Xbox and Wii with my two boys. I love watching all of my favourite Sports and catching up on my TV shows (Breaking Bad, Falling Skies, and The Walking Dead) whenever I get some free time.

I often like to go for runs during my lunch break along the beach which is surprisingly very relaxing.

Do you have a favourite sport?

Rugby League, Rugby, and the Premier League in the UK. I love my beloved St George Illawarra Dragons and my adopted football team Newcastle "The Toon" United

How about a favourite food?

My home made Spaghetti Bolognese smashes anything else I've had!

Favourite movies?

It has to be Star Wars (come on, I am in I.T. here), any of the Farrelly Brothers movies, and old school Rodney Dangerfield movies. A special mention has to go to Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy

Favourite music?

All Alternative music

New Members Join the CENet Team

As the needs of Member dioceses continue to evolve, CENet is growing to meet those needs. As a result, CENet recently welcomed four new staff members, Matthew Gully, Glen Wickert, Courtney Gray and Vicki Anderson to the team.

Matthew has taken on the role of Senior Systems Engineer and comes to us with experience in managing large virtualised server environments as well as directory services. In previous roles he was involved in the delivery of multi-tenanted IT environments as a shared service to NSW Government Departments, a structure similar to that being provided by CENet for Member dioceses.

Glen has joined as IT Operations Support Officer and brings with him, experience from working as a Technical Support Consultant and in a large secondary school.

Courtney is under secondment from the Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Wollongong and has joined the team as Commercial Contracts Administrator. Courtney brings with her a wealth of knowledge in the areas of finance and administration.

Vicki Anderson has also joined the CENet team as Chief Information Officer. Vicki has had a long career in IT management at BHP and Bluescope and will be leading the introduction of new enterprise applications determined through CENet's IT governance model.

CENet's Office

CENet is located in an old convent in Bellambi, just north of Wollongong.

The IT team office recently underwent an upgrade to accommodate staff growth and to provide well designed ergonomic workstations.

Here are some pictures of our newly refurbished offices.



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<http://gplus.to/CENetAus>