



Our First Edition!

WELCOME TO WHATSSUP WATSSA

IT Update November
21st and 22nd



Hello and welcome to the first edition of **Whatssup WATSSA**, your newsletter for everything happening in WATSSA and the world of IT. We are planning to produce a newsletter every term published around the middle of the term. I know this one is late, three terms late, but it is finally here. We are committed to you the members and the technicians out there in schools doing the hard yards and we are going to try and do better at keeping you informed.

Our aim is that this newsletter will contain information about upcoming school tours, professional learning opportunities, updates from DOE, known issues that are affecting us and information about pilot projects. Each edition we would also like to try and raise the profile of a school and a member of WATSSA.

Please help us get better and fill out this short survey.

We are currently hard at work trying to sort out the IT update conference. We now know why Harold was so eager to hand it off. We are still locking down the venue and gathering quotes but at this stage we can just say lock in November 21st and 22nd this year as days you are going to be out for the conference. That's right we are trying to make the conference two days this year. We have a lot of content to pack in and we wanted everyone to have more

opportunities to attend something that was of value to them. This will also hopefully benefit our country members who struggle to justify the expense of coming to a conference for a single day. There will be more details in the following newsletters.

We would like to offer a big thankyou to everyone out there who has supported the creation of WATSSA by paying registration fees, membership fees and renewal fees. Your support has made a huge difference and has really helped to propel us forward.

Finally, we are forming a number of sub-committees to help keep the ball rolling on a number of important items. Events, Conference and Media (Help me make this newsletter interesting and get it out on time). If you would be interested in joining any of our sub committees please send an email to info@watssa.asn



An interview with Jon Stanley School Tour – Lynwood SHS

Location: South Metro (Green domain)
Users: 1250 students 130 staff
Devices: 800+
Network Admin: Jon Stanley (Lvl 4)

Principal: Geri Hardy
Deputy ICT Portfolio: Nat Simms
MCS: Cecilia Douglas
ICT Tech: Kelvin Yap (Lvl 2)

Jon Stanley has been working at Lynwood SHS since 2016 and has made some impressive strides forward in the use of technology at their school. For those of you who were lucky enough to be in the leadership stream of 2018's IT Update you will have heard Jon share his experience.

Jon and Kelvin have turned Lynwood around from a technological standpoint. They have replaced an aging and out of warranty network with all brand new equipment. The teachers are using MS Surface Pros and the classrooms all have TV panels or projectors. Everything is within warranty and the oldest device is three years old. A key component of this success was to think outside the box and change the type of assets used within the school.

I caught up with Jon at Lynwood on a cold Thursday morning. The first thing to note about Jon is that he is tall. The kind of tall that makes me think he could give up this IT thing and go and play some sort of professional basketball. The other thing is that the man works in some sort of Nerd Nirvana straight out of the IT crowd. There was a VR station, a 75" TV, a PlayStation, lots of games, White Dwarf Magazines and one of the tallest sit-to-stand desks I have ever seen. Also he seems to have a cat at work.

But for all of that Jon is still just like the rest of us, our time together

was constantly interrupted by staff members who couldn't access their email or log onto the Wi-Fi, which of course meant unlocking their account.

So if you are available I suggest you head over to Lynwood SHS on the 12th of July at 8:30am and see what Jon and Kelvin have managed to achieve. You can book via the PLIS website. Here are a few questions and answers to tide you over until then.

What is something cool you do at Lynwood? We run a daily Gamer anime club every lunchtime. Students play together on Wii U and PlayStation 4 pro. We have 4 consoles and an anime series for students to watch. We get about 40 kids every lunch time.

What makes Lynwood Special? The unique blend of cultural backgrounds among staff and students.

What makes Lynwood unique in regards to ICT? We have very new equipment, everything is within in warranty period and we use a lot of wireless technology.

How would you rate your schools use of ICT: 6 out of 10 (plenty of room for improvement). In our recent upgrade, we removed all teachers devices in the classroom and offices, including staff iPad's. These were replaced with Surface pro's and surface docks in offices and classrooms. Additionally, the aging fleet of interactive



whiteboards were replaced with cheaper 70" tv's. Interestingly this new technology moved the interactivity from the board to the teachers device and as a result teachers are more inclined to be interactive with digital content. As a whole, particularly with younger teaching staff, technology use has increased across the board.

What is your next big project? 10gig backbone and SMI.

Favorite Technology at the school? At the moment it would have to be the VR technology that we are trying to implement. We are very wary that it is not used as a gimmick and there is going to be educational benefits to its use.

BYOD, do you run it and if so what do you do?: Yes, this has been a challenge for us. We are currently focusing on windows only devices with the intention to move to the Lenovo yoga 11e for the 2020 program

-Wade Ninness

Professional Learning

Our team is busily working on some professional learning for everyone. At this stage we are planning some PL three times a term in weeks 3, 6 and 9. So far we are looking at sessions being an hour to an hour and a half long at the end of the school day.

Details and signups will be posted on the website. Currently we have two sessions planned.



Budgeting – How to get the money you need to build the network you deserve.

Presenters: Wade Ninness, Jon Stanley. Location: John Curtin College of the Arts

Date: 8th of August at 4pm



"...it's also an exciting time as we begin to forge the ideas together on supporting ICT..."

The History of WATSSA

Late 2017 and the ICT by the Sea Conference had just finished. A group of public-school technical support officers sat around a table discussing all that we had seen and heard. Little did we know that would be the last ICT by the Sea conference. From that round table meeting an idea emerged about having a group that was dedicated to all things ICT in the public-school domain.

Since that day, two very hard-working individuals from that discussion began to form what would eventually be called WATSSA, or the West Australian Technical Support in Schools Association. Shaun Barnett spent up until the early morning hours some days reading the Association laws as required both federally and state and coming to grips with what they meant and how they would work within a not for profit association. Michael Raymond worked on other areas such as the application for an association, the website, the PayPal account, bank account amongst other things. And then there was the WAMCE Conference that WATSSA was invited to be a part of. All down to the hard work of Shaun and Mike.

A genesis occurred in the middle of 2018 when the first meeting was convened to discuss the laws and by-laws with the same individuals from that first round table discussion in 2017. Positions were filled and the skeleton of the association began to be drawn up.

And to be fair, since that time the drive from both Shaun and Michael have propelled this idea forward to what we see today. A legally registered association that was first presented at the ICT Catch Up day hosted by the Department for Education.

The Department of Education ICT has been supportive and vocal in how much they want to see this Association succeed. Harold Ballard from the CRM team has given his time to sit in on the meetings as a representative of the Department and his experience and contribution is greatly valued and appreciated.

The challenge then was to adopt the ICT Catch Up day that the department hosted in 2018 and make it the

responsibility of WATSSA to both organise and then host in November 2019. Again, much of the work to look for suitable locations to host the conference was made by Shaun and Michael. As was the tentative structure on getting catering and inviting sponsors to the occasion. It was a big challenge and it has had some changes along the way. But WATSSA is still in the running to host it in November as planned.

Other responsibilities have been delegated to the other committee members. The application to be listed in PLIS (Professional Learning Information System) proceeded. Trevlyn Farrar, Dave Anning and So and So did the PLIS training and are now putting together the first plans to provide training for ICT support officers across the public school sector to take advantage of. A media and marketing committee has just been formed to put the word out on what WATSSA hopes to provide and achieve for all those taking care of our ICT infrastructure. And then we have such and such that organises such and such.

WATSSA is still in the early stages of development. We are still forming ideas in how we will specifically support and train those in the public school sector who are relied on to keep ICT happening and working for our staff and students. It's a challenge to get this first ICT Catch Up conference organised and hosted. But it's also an exciting time as we begin to forge the ideas together on supporting ICT in school.

It might be a bumpy ride, but we hope you'll stick with us and support us in whatever way you can. Stay tuned to this space, more is coming.

-Michael Boughton



teachers are more inclined to be interactive with digital content

WATSSA President Nominated

Michael Raymond, our President of WATSSA, has been nominated for support officer of the year in the WA Education Awards. A large part of that nomination was all of the work Mike has done in setting up WATSSA and bringing us together as a group to help benefit us, the schools we support and the students who attend them.

From everyone at WATSSA Mike, congratulations and best of luck with the awards process.

Finalists will be announced on the 23rd of July. We will keep everyone posted.



Left: Principal Damian Shuttleworth Right: Michael Raymond

What's happening at DOE

This is a section we are trying to develop that will centralise some information about what is going on that the department can leagaly share with us and our members. It is a bit lite this week because I gave Harold about 15 seconds notice. So here is your 15 second update about things happening at DOE that you may be interested in.



Upcoming Courses – Details and Booking on PLIS

Ipad Fundamentals 27th and 28th of August

Presentation of the different components - Apple School Manager, Mobile Device Management and the different deployment models

SOE Fundamentals 12th and 13th of September

Known Issues

Wireless Authentication on 2802 WAPs

WAP model CISCO 2802 has authentication issues with the wireless LAN controller. The department are investigating but do not have a solution. If you experience problems with this please try using that tried and true technical method of switching it off and on again.