



# eXtra<sup>THE CECC</sup>

## PLanning News for 2005

The CECC Team met on the 17 January 2005 to reflect on 2004 activities and to set plans and priorities for 2005. During this planning session the CECC Team reviewed its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. We also reflected on our major plans in terms of development priorities and for client service enhancements in

2005. The CECC mission statement was updated as follows:

*The Centre for Electronic Commerce and Communications is located in the School of Business operating as a business unit of the University of Ballarat. Through education, training, research and consultancies CECC promotes the*

*adoption and diffusion of information and communication technologies (ICT). Centre activities are focused particularly on supporting the practical application of ICT in a regional and rural context.*

## Staff Update

CECC has entered 2005 with a larger team. The roles of Centre Manager (Helen Thompson), Technical Manager (Andrew Macleod), Web Developer (Craig Briody) and Programmer (Paul Feely) have been cemented during 2004. The CECC Team now also includes the School of Business (SoB) Website Coordinator and the SoB Alumni Coordinator.

One of the many projects undertaken by the CECC team during 2004 was the development of the School of Business Alumni website, [www.ballarat.edu.au/business/alumni](http://www.ballarat.edu.au/business/alumni). Ellen Mucha spends one day each week working with CECC to coordinate activities associated with SoB Alumni activities. Ellen also works one day a week with the Centre for Regional Innovation and Competitiveness (CRIC).

Kara Hodgson recently joined the CECC Team working as the interim Website Coordinator for the School of Business. In this role Kara works with CECC to develop and enhance the SoB Website which can be viewed at [www.ballarat.edu.au/business](http://www.ballarat.edu.au/business).

We welcome both Ellen and Kara to the CECC Team and thank them for their efforts so far.

## CLient Networking and Feedback

One of the highlights of 2004 was bringing clients together at the CECC Client Forum and Networking Session. Our next forum is to be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2005, from 10:30am to 3:00pm. The program will provide a similar mix of client presentations and discussion. We hope you are able to actively participate. More details will be forwarded soon.

The CECC Team will be emailing clients during March with a request to take part in the 2005 Client Evaluation Survey. The online survey will only take a few minutes of your time to complete. It will provide us with valuable information to assist us in enhancing our client services and support activities.

The Survey results will also assist us in prioritising training and development activities in 2005.

We look forward to receiving your feedback. The CECC Team will then report on the survey results at the Client Forum and Networking Session during April 2005.



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## New Projects

**Rural Law Online** - a new project initiated by the [Victoria Law Foundation](#). CECC has provided the technology services which underpin the online delivery of this invaluable resource for rural Victorians. Based on the Rural Law Handbook publication, the website provides extensive information on legal matters in plain language. With a rural and regional focus the website also offers a legal service locator, discussion forums and a legal terms glossary. The website contains information on over 500 topics of law including environment and planning, land and its uses, vehicles and firearms, crops, employment law and dealing with disputes. For further information contact Andrew MacLeod at [a.macleod@ballarat.edu.au](mailto:a.macleod@ballarat.edu.au) or visit [www.rurallaw.org.au](http://www.rurallaw.org.au).



[www.rurallaw.org.au](http://www.rurallaw.org.au)



[www.ssv.org.au](http://www.ssv.org.au)

**Service Skills Victoria** – An exciting new website resource for Victoria's tourism and retail businesses. The SSV website is an excellent example of how the CECC development platform can be utilised to completely manage and extend an advanced website. Since its launch in early January, the content and functionality of the site has grown at an exceptional rate. The CECC Team congratulates the SSV Team, particularly Lencia and Adam, who have completed extensive work on the website. For more information regarding this project visit the website at [www.ssv.org.au](http://www.ssv.org.au)

**Hunter News / Southern Finance Group** – A Hamilton based legal and financial services firm approached a number of organisations during 2004 to request a quotation for enhancing the firm's existing website. A key requirement was for the firm to be able to fully manage the redeveloped website. CECC was selected as the preferred supplier. Since that time further development services have been provided as an outcome of a merger which resulted in the establishment of the Southern Finance Group. Both websites are hosted by CECC. For more information visit [www.hng.com.au](http://www.hng.com.au) and [www.southernfinance.com.au](http://www.southernfinance.com.au)



[Southern Finance Group](#)

**Moorabool Townships** – MtEgerton.com is the first township portal established through Moorabool Online. Community support for this project has been excellent. The Moorabool Shire is now seeking to develop six new township sites during 2005. For more information visit [www.mconline.com.au](http://www.mconline.com.au) or contact Helen.



[www.mtegerton.com](http://www.mtegerton.com)

**UoB Learning and Teaching** - the University of Ballarat - Vice Chancellor's Office commissioned CECC to develop a new learning and teaching web resource during December 2004. The development of the new learning and teaching website was a collaborative effort between the VCO and CECC. For more information visit the website at [www.ballarat.edu.au/learningandteaching](http://www.ballarat.edu.au/learningandteaching)

**bbbOnline** – is a business skills pilot program based on tourism industry accreditation for micro

tourism operators being held in the Goldfields (Central Highlands and Central Victoria) region of Victoria from August 2004 to July 2005. CECC has developed web-based and CDROM services to support the delivery of the pilot in towns including Ballarat, Bendigo, Creswick, Castlemaine and Maldon.

The site featured online registration and payment, downloads, keynote speakers and general workshop information. For more information in relation to the Future Search Workshops visit the website at [www.cric.com.au/futuresearch](http://www.cric.com.au/futuresearch)



[UoB Learning and Teaching](#)



[www.bbbonline.com.au](http://www.bbbonline.com.au)

**Future Search** - 2005 Workshops, hosted by the Centre for Regional innovation and Competitiveness were a fantastic success. The website which was designed and hosted by CECC was an important part of this event.



[Future Search Conference Website](#)

## PRoduct Updates

**The CECC Menu Manager** - is the latest addition to the CECC product suite. The Menu Manager gives clients full control of their website navigation. Coupled with the CECC Content Builder the Menu Manager makes the updating process a breeze, and the result is a very powerful Content management System (CMS) for your website. For information regarding this or any product within the CECC suite go to [www.cecc.com.au/cecc/products.php](http://www.cecc.com.au/cecc/products.php)

**The CECC SiteBuilder** - is nearing completion and is planned for release in March 2005. The development of the CECC SiteBuilder has been on the drawing board for some time and will replace the HarvestRoad Wizard™ products which are no longer available through CECC. The SiteBuilder will provide a template-based step-by-step method for creating and managing a 3, 5 or 10 page website. Initially, the SiteBuilder will be used primarily within community portals providing small organisations and groups with the facility to develop their own websites. Visit the CECC website later this month to review further information and see samples of this product.



[The CECC Menu Manager](#)



[The CECC Content Builder](#)



[The CECC User Poll](#)

**The CECC Content Builder** – A major upgrade is currently underway for the Content Builder. Plans for the upgrade include;

- Better integration with other products.
- Workflow improvements including check in/check out functionality and enhanced email notification.
- Improved archiving and content expiration dates.
- Better metadata handling.

As always, we are keen to hear your suggestions for enhancements and improvements for the new version. Please contact Andrew Macleod at [webmaster@cecc.com.au](mailto:webmaster@cecc.com.au)

**The CECC User Poll** – A new version of the User Poll was launched late in 2004. It features:

- Archived Polls
- Improved security
- New administration interface.
- More flexibility in how the poll can be displayed on your site.



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## Presentations and Publications

A research paper written by Helen Thompson titled Building Local Capacity via Scaleable Web-Based Services has recently been published as a chapter in the five-volume *Encyclopedia of Information Science and Technology*. See [www.idea-group.com/encyclopedia/details.asp?ID=4455](http://www.idea-group.com/encyclopedia/details.asp?ID=4455) for further details

In the current issue of *The Journal of Community Informatics* (see [ci-journal.net/index.php](http://ci-journal.net/index.php)) there is an article published by Helen Thompson which explores the role of universities in sustaining ICT initiatives. It is based on CECC case studies from the University of Ballarat.

Steve McEachern and Helen Thompson will present a paper at the *International Conference on Engaging Communities* (see [www.engagingcommunities2005.org/](http://www.engagingcommunities2005.org/)) in Brisbane during August 2005. The title of their presentation will be Hidden Treasure: Unearthing Aspirations and Mobilising Skills in a Neighbourhood Renewal Context.

## Congratulations

One of the programming languages that is utilised in product development at CECC is PHP. An international industry standard in PHP certification that recognises expertise has recently been established by Zend.

Andrew Macleod recently undertook studies associated with the certification and then successfully sat the PHP certification exam. Andrew is now a *PHP Certified Expert*. Congratulations Andrew!

At CECC we encourage all Team Members to undertake professional development activities to enhance their abilities and skills. We look forward to sharing further information on their achievements in future issues of the CECC eXtra

