

Issue

03

Term 3, 2012

# ILC Tech



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Please email us for any additional information about this newsletter

## Spectronics Conference Wrap Up Bumper Issue!



## Inside this issue:

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The Inclusive Learning Technologies Conference was held on the Gold Coast, Queensland 22nd –25th of May 2012. Members of ILC Tech were lucky enough to have the opportunity to attend this conference and would like to share the knowledge they gained through this term’s ILC Tech newsletter!

### ***This issue will include:***

*Technology “Killer app”*

*SETT Framework and Universal Design for Learning*

*Switching and communication*

*Literacy for all – engaging students in learning*

*New products available from conference exhibitors*

*Plus all our regular features!*

## Our Service

The ILC Technology service provides information, advice and training on specialised computer access, technologies to support education and augmentative and alternative communication equipment for people of all ages.

Information regarding assistive and educational technologies is available by appointment.

The ILC Hire Service specialises in the short term hire of equipment to provide you with an opportunity to trial before purchase.



We hope you enjoy it!

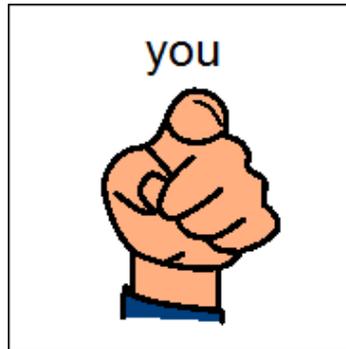
# Technology—The Killer App?

Presented by Ian Bean Independent Special Needs ICT Consultant and Trainer

<http://www.ianbean.co.uk/index.html>

British based education consultant and former special education teacher Ian Bean presented an engaging and inspiring keynote address on the “Killer app”. We all waited with anticipation...

“What is it?” The killer app is .....



Ian discussed that it is parents, teachers and therapists are the true “killer apps” not the gadgets they use. He told the conference that there is *“nothing magical”* about sitting a child in front of a computer or iPad without teaching them how to use it. *“It doesn’t matter how many resources we’ve got if you don’t know how to use them properly. That’s not useful. It’s all about the training.”*

## Teachers key, not technology

ROSANNE BARRETT

TEACHERS are the “killer app” — not the gadgets they use — and schools need to invest in training as well as technology, an international special-education consultant will tell an educators’ conference.

Former special-education teacher Ian Bean says new technologies, particularly the iPad, allow children to communicate or learn using different methods and have the capacity to increase learning.

The British-based education consultant says by utilising up-to-date systems and programs students with dyslexia are able to gain access to word phonetics and children lacking speech can use interactive touchscreens to make choices. But without an informed teacher the most extensive — and expensive — technology is useless.

“It doesn’t matter how many resources we’ve got if you don’t know how to use them properly. That’s not useful. It’s all about the training.”

Mr Bean travelled to Australia to present a seminar on assisted education at education company Spectronics’ Inclusive Learning Technologies Conference on the Gold Coast. He will tell about 1200 teachers there is “nothing magical” about sitting a child in front of a computer without teaching them how to use it.

He says funding needs to be allocated to both “targeted purchases” in educational technology, but training is required to ensure teachers can make the best use of their resources.

“The teacher is the killer app, the must-have piece of kit that everyone needs,” he says.

“The killer app for any technology is the person in the class who is there with the student, asking questions, engaging them.

“They are what adds the extra value to it.”

The increase in use of the iPad was a boon because it was portable, used a touchscreen and replaced “hugely expensive” communication devices that could cost schools up to \$15,000.

Mr Bean gives an example of a former student at his Priory

Woods School in England who came to the school unable to speak, but with technology and resourceful teachers the boy was gradually able to make informed decisions, communicate them, write and learn.

“He was able to interact with the curriculum, play games and learn, and technology facilitated that,” he says. “Without technology that student would still be in a class and would have a lovely sensory curriculum, but with technology they are able to learn and develop.”

Mr Bean says teachers, particularly those specialising in special-needs education, are “the most creative people on the planet” and were quickly able to devise ways of translating curriculum through technology.

“Assisted technology is the most empowering tool. The challenge is training teachers to use that effectively,” he says.

Queensland Premier Campbell Newman went to the March election promising 20 iPads for each special needs school and 10 for each with a special-education program.

# Universal Design for Learning

Presented by Joy Zabala, Centre for Applied Special Technology  
<http://www.joyzabala.com/>

Joy presented on Universal Design for Learning (UDL) which is set of principles for curriculum development that give all individuals equal opportunities to learn. Joy works for CAST, a non-profit research and development organisation in the United States which works to expand learning opportunities for all individuals through UDL.

UDL acknowledges that students have diverse abilities and backgrounds, including students with physical, sensory, and learning disabilities, differing cultural and linguistic backgrounds, varied preferences and motivations for learning. UDL supports teachers to develop a flexible curriculum that can support all students to learn.

Joy talked about the three underlying principles of UDL:

**Multiple Means of representation:** to give learners various ways of acquiring information and knowledge

**Multiple Means of expression:** to provide learners alternatives for demonstrating what they know

**Multiple means of engagement:** to tap into learners interests, offer challenges, and increase motivation

I. Provide Multiple Means of Representation	II. Provide Multiple Means of Action and Expression	III. Provide Multiple Means of Engagement
Perception	Physical action	Recruiting interest
Language, expressions, and symbols	Expression and communication	Sustaining effort and persistence
Comprehension	Executive function	Self-regulation

Joy also discussed the four curriculum pillars that make up a UDL Curriculum: goals, methods, materials and assessments. She explained how a UDL curriculum differs from traditional curriculum in flexibility and variation.

Assistive Technology and UDL are complementary supports for student participation and achievement.

For more information about Universal Design for Learning visit  
<http://www.cast.org/index.html> or  
[www.udlcenter.org/](http://www.udlcenter.org/)



**CLEARING A PATH FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS CLEARS THE PATH FOR EVERYONE!**

## The SETT Framework

Presented by Joy Zabala, Centre for Applied Special Technology

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

Joy presented on the SETT Framework which she developed as a tool for decision making and service delivery around assistive technology.

- **S**tudent / Self      *The person who is the central focus of the process*
- **E**nvironments      *The customary environments in which the person is (or can be expected to live, learn and grow)*
- **T**asks      *The specific things that the person needs or wants to be able to do to reach expectations and make progress*
- **T**ools      *Everything that is needed by the person and others for the person to accomplish the tasks in the places where they need to be done so that progress is achieved. Includes more than just the technology; modifications, support, instructional strategies, accessible materials, training, documentation etc. for the student and other key people*

Joy spoke about the need for teams to be collaborative in determining suitable assistive technology options and working towards a common goal. She highlighted the need to continually evaluate the technology and revisit the SETT framework as new questions and information may be available. Head to Joy's website for more information to start evaluating your technology use.

## Literacy for All: Building Blocks for Literacy Success

Presented by Jane Farrall, Speech Pathologist and Special Educator

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

**“Let’s change the world”.**

Jane presented on her work with Chris Lennon at the Willans Hill School in Wagga Wagga. In 2011 the school had 69 students all with moderate to severe intellectual disability and a range of other abilities and disabilities. Their vision was to have literacy instruction in every classroom for a minimum of 2 hours a day, they wanted to “change the world”.

The school implemented the Four Blocks Literacy Model. The model consists of Four Blocks:

- Guided Reading
- Self-selected Reading
- Writing
- Working with Words

They had to change the culture of the school, to increase the expectation of the staff and parents of their children’s ability to develop literacy. They purchased new resources (flip camera, Clicker 5, SMARTboards) and gave staff time off class to develop resources. A one page of literacy feedback was added in each school report, they watched each other teach and talked to each other a lot!

For more information about the four blocks approach and the Willans Hill School Project please go to Jane’s website <http://www.janefarrall.com/blog/2012/05/25/literacy-for-all-building-blocks-for-literacy-success/> and [www.fourblocks.com](http://www.fourblocks.com)

See her full presentation at <http://www.janefarrall.com/blog/>

## Beyond Recreation and Leisure: Motor Cognitive Learning through Engaging the Brain

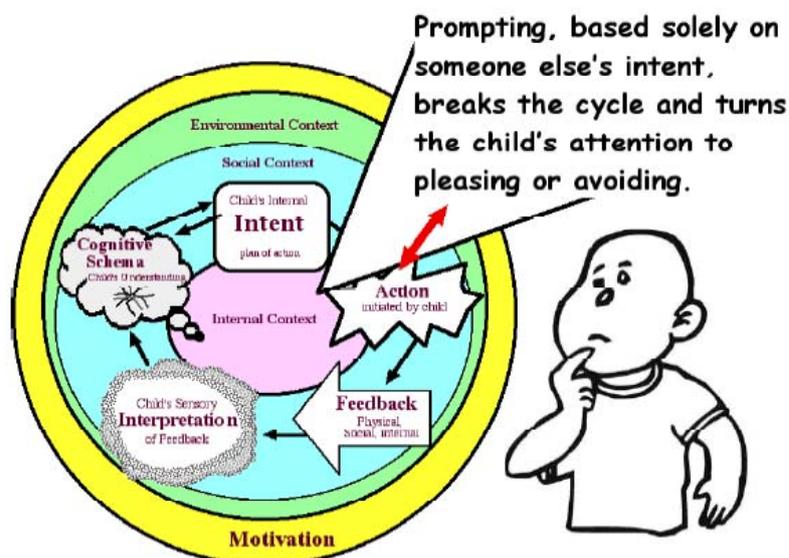
Presented by Linda Burkhart AT and AAC Integration Specialist

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

Linda Burkhart presented on how children learn and how to facilitate learning using assistive technology. Linda spoke about the importance motivation for learning and that **motivation for learning comes from within a person**. It is different from just having fun or being entertained. Children need a reason for doing something that makes sense to them at the time. When a child wants to do something their brain works more efficiently and the task becomes easier for the child. Linda discussed the notion of **learned helplessness** and **passivity**. She discussed that the role of teachers, therapists and families is to facilitate independence, active engagement and to support problem solving for the individuals they work with. Over time children can then begin to see themselves as an active participant in learning, experience some control and a feeling of **"I can do it"**.

In order to engage children in learning Linda suggested:

- Give the child expectant wait time (don't jump in to help too quickly!) this allows the child time to process and respond with her own motivation.
- Limit hand over hand support, it can cause an individual to be prompt dependent and passive. Support movement initiated by the child instead of prompting the initiation of the movement.
- Develop activities that have relevance and intrinsic motivation rather than relying on external rewards and motivators.
- Praise a child for specific and active efforts. Targeted praise with clear feedback can help the child recognise their own achievements.
- Provide opportunities for problem solving.
- Allow the child to make mistakes, mistakes are an important part of learning.
- You and/or a peer model and take a turn of the activity to facilitate learning.
- Recognise the difference between teaching and testing.
- Provide repetition with moderate difference (repetition is crucial for learning but boredom develops with too much repetition that is not child directed).
- Provide multiple opportunities throughout the day for the child to feel "in control".



Linda has lots of information and handouts on her website for motor cognitive learning, developing switch skills and communication.

## New Products on the Market

Attainment company

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

### Go Talk Now for iPad

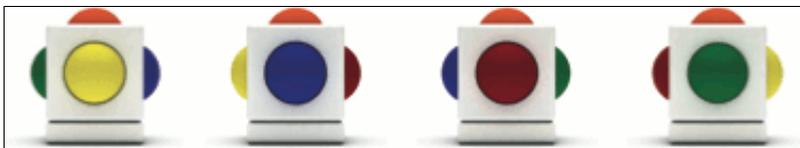
#### StepPad

The popular Go Talk devices are now available as an app for iPad. Make your own static and dynamic displays. Use them on screen or print them off for a paper copy.



Skoogmusic

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



The **Skoog** enables children to experience and play musical sounds for themselves. It is designed specifically to meet the needs of anyone who cannot play a traditional musical instrument.



### Literacy Planet

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

A new iPad app for developing literacy skills

textHELP

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

**Fluency Tutor** is designed to support young and struggling readers in developing oral reading fluency and improve comprehension. Free demos available.



Sensory Guru products are available from Link AT

<http://www.sensoryguru.co.uk/>

Sensory Guru designs and installs sensory environments, gesture controlled software and inclusive learning technology.

Products include **Magic Carpet with eye control.**



## Meet Our New Staff in ILC Tech!

### Linda Tran

Occupational Therapist

I joined the ILC Tech team in April this year, my previous experience has been in home visiting and physical rehabilitation. I'm excited to be working (playing!) with all kinds of assistive technology and clever gadgets. My interests include reading, going to comedy shows, baking cakes and travelling. I'm known for my sweet tooth so you can always find a lolly stash at my desk!



### Sara Chong

Speech Pathologist

I joined ILC Tech in June 2012 and work Mondays and Tuesdays. I work at Rocky Bay in their school aged program on the other 3 weekdays.

I love chocolate, op-shopping, vintage crafts, running and letting my husband do the laundry on Saturday mornings.

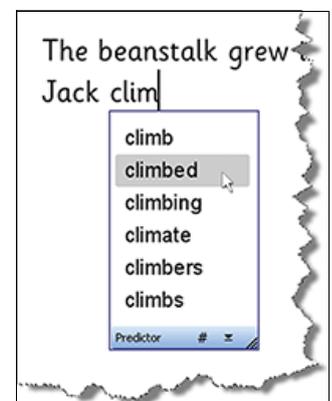
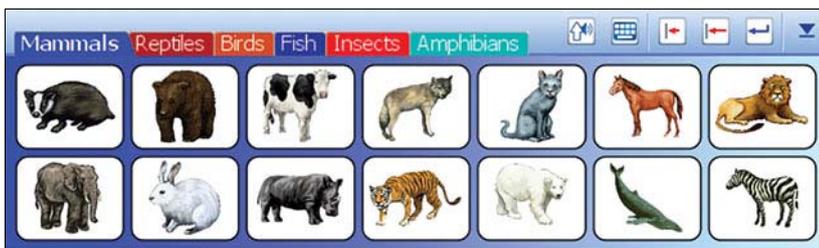
I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone and joining in on all the interesting projects and gadgets there are in the ILC !



## New products at ILC Tech

### Clicker 6

The new Clicker has arrived in ILC Tech! Clicker 6 has additional features including word processor, word predictor, bigger picture library, built in Clicker Paint and webcam support. Also new are features designed to reduce programming time. There are new Clicker Wizards, editing tools and quick access to Learning Grids resources.



Available from Spectronics:

<http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/product/clicker-6-anz-australiannew-zealand-version-2>

### DAESSY Mini Adjustable Mount

The mini adjustable mount has several points of adjustment to assist with the set up and positioning of devices on an individuals wheelchair.

DAESSY device adapter plates are available for most devices including the iPad.

Available from CommunicATe:

<http://www.communicateat.com.au/products/detail/14-daessy/flypage.pbv.v6/32-daessy-mini-adjustable?sef=hcfp>



**ILC Hire also has a range of new equipment available for loan including technology equipment and paediatric equipment.**

**Contact them on (08)9381 0606 for more information and to make a booking.**

## ILC TECH

Independent Living Centre of WA  
The Niche, Suite A,  
11 Aberdare Road  
Nedlands WA 6009

Phone: 08 9381 0600

Fax: 08 9381 0611

Local call: 1300 885 886

E-mail: [technology@ilc.com.au](mailto:technology@ilc.com.au)



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

### Free Listservs for assistive technology

Listservs allow you to send one email to a list of people also signed up to the Listserv. They are useful for gaining information about a topic by reading others posts or posting your own questions.

**QIAT**  
**AGOSCI**  
**ARATA**

[http://natri.uky.edu/assoc\\_projects/qiat/listserv.html](http://natri.uky.edu/assoc_projects/qiat/listserv.html)

<http://www.agosci.org.au/list.htm>

[http://www.arata.org.au/resources\\_list.php](http://www.arata.org.au/resources_list.php)

## 2012 ILC Tech Country Visits

ILC Tech is now taking expressions of interest for country visits from July onwards. We are funded to provide a limited number of appointments in country areas each year. Appointments will be held with a Speech Pathologist or Occupational Therapist from the Technology Service.

Technology workshops may also be available on request. Workshops may incur a fee.

To arrange a trip to your town, follow these steps:

1. Start discussions between local allied health teams, schools, LAC's and families regarding which individuals may benefit from an appointment to look at communication aids, computer access, other educational technology etc.
2. Contact Jessica in ILC Tech on 93810600 or [jessica.rigden@ilc.com.au](mailto:jessica.rigden@ilc.com.au) to book a visit
3. Complete referral form (provided by Jessica) for each client requiring an appointment.
4. Jessica will review the referrals and coordinate appointments with the local referrer

### Calendar of Events

Event Title	Date/ Place	More Information
AGOSCI National Tour Talking the Talk: Let's Get Interactive, Caroline Musselwhite INTERNATIONAL AAC EXPERT	<b>Registrations now OPEN!!!!!!!!!!</b> 24th August 2012  The Niche Conference Room, next to ILC	Caroline has 25 years experience working with children with disabilities and complex communication needs. <a href="http://www.agosci.org.au/nt2012.htm">http://www.agosci.org.au/nt2012.htm</a>
Early Childhood Intervention Australia—National Conference	9-11th August 2012  Burswood Entertainment Conference	<a href="http://www.eciaconference2012.com.au/">http://www.eciaconference2012.com.au/</a>
Proloquo2Go Workshop	28th of August 2012	Contact ILC Tech on (08) 9381 0600