

Future schools provides insight



Technology Park, Sydney

Future Schools combined a strong speakers program with a plethora of exhibitors to attract healthy numbers of attendees for its event in March.

All who attended were spoiled for choice, being offered five parallel conferences and six master classes conducted by some of education's heavy hitters.

Keynote and master class convenor Charles Leadbeater was typical of the high standard of educator that attendees of the event were able to access.

Known for his fluid speaking style and insight, Leadbeater is one of the worlds most sought after and lauded education thinkers. His speech on innovation and technology opened the conference and was an eye opener for most looking to inject their teaching practice with some cutting edge approaches.

Leadbeater's work in the area of solutions and innovative approaches to delivery of education arrived at through necessity in places like Rio and Nairobi are inspirational. Another of his big ideas is the importance of a relationship-based approach to education, which has been widely influential.

In a hugely popular masterclass, Jon Bergmann introduced his approach to the flipped classroom, guiding those attending to the best tools to help you flip your school more effectively and offering advice to administrators seeking to evaluate teachers who have started to flip their classes. Bergmann provided a look into the future by exploring what is coming in the flipped learning movement.

Alongside Future Schools were four other related education technology events. Classtech aimed at educators wanting to integrate emerging technologies into their classroom including coding, robotics, 3D printing, augmented reality and gaming.

Teaching Kids to Code had a focus on how to teach children to code, which is an increasingly important skill for children to have.

Special Education Technology Needs was designed for all classroom teachers and SENCOs from mainstream schools who want to learn how to use inclusive and assistive technologies in their classrooms

The Young Learners Conference was designed to show teachers how to introduce technology to children in foundation years.

Look out for next year's event and associated conference Edutech in June this year to be held in Brisbane.



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Tours give students an architect's view of Melbourne's CBD

Organising school tours exploring Melbourne's Aboriginal heritage, Gold Rush legacy, and distinctive architecture is now possible through one website educationdestinations.melbourne

Some of the unique tours offered by Education Destinations give students an architect's view of the CBD. Melbourne Architours, which has been running both public and private tours for the past three years, has developed two special tours for secondary school students *Designing the Sustainable City* and *Photographing the City*.

Melbourne Architours co-director, Esther Sugihto, says that she and her tour partners Shelley Freeman, Andy Fergus and Mark Skiba, felt compelled to share their passion for Melbourne's CBD and the challenges it faces in becoming sustainable, not just environmentally but economically and socially.

"The *Designing the Sustainable City* tour offers a fascinating view of the city through the lens of architecture. Concern for environmental sustainability in architecture may now be commonplace, but our guided walking tour of buildings illustrates how this has changed over



time and how the problems are being addressed," Sugihto said.

"We want students to understand what the issues are from the macro level down to the micro level – to understand how buildings operate and what the implications are, for example, when we turn on the air conditioning. We aim to start a conversation about what citizens could do to better design Melbourne's CBD."

Sugihto says that students will be prompted to look behind what's visible and to explore State and local government policies. Key sites include

Federation Square and CH2 – Melbourne City Council's headquarters – which was the first office building in Australia to achieve a Green Star rating of six stars.

The focus of the *Photographing the City* tour is on relics of 1880s Marvellous Melbourne, the interwar period, and post war modernism through to contemporary architecture.

"There's always something to do. It's a constant process of change, a constant process of discovery. I also admire the way Melburnians are so active around planning issues. Our city is so special, none of us can feel complacent."

Education Destinations tours last at least 90 minutes with group prices starting from \$215.

Education Destinations also lists some of Melbourne's lesser known educational destinations that welcome school groups and have interesting stories to share – from the forensic displays at the Victoria Police Museum to the exhibitions at the Chinese Museum.

Inquiries: Melbourne Architours
mob 0430 389 740

Bookings: educationdestinations.melbourne

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Corwin is new distributor for Visible Learning^{plus}

Corwin is now the exclusive provider of Visible Learning^{plus} professional development to K-12 educators in Australia. MD of the Melbourne-based operation is Brad Rosairo. The new office expands the regional presence of parent company SAGE, which has an office in Singapore.

The Visible Learning^{plus} model of school change is based on the world-renowned research of Prof John Hattie, and focuses on practices that make the most impact on student achievement. The extension of this partnership to Australia enables Corwin to bring its successful track record of delivering impactful professional learning to Australian educators.

“Visible Learning^{plus} is arguably the most powerful school change model in the world. It not only gives educators the evidence base to prove that what they are doing is effective, it also gives them the evidence gathering and analysis techniques they need to create an ongoing understanding of their impact on student learning and achievement,” said Mike Soules, President of Corwin. “To be entrusted with delivering the work of Prof Hattie in Australia is an immense honor.”

Deb Masters, Director of Visible Learning^{plus} for Cognition Education says: “Cognition is delighted to partner with Corwin in Australia. This partnership builds on the work that Corwin has already undertaken across North America since July 2013, where Visible



Learning events and in-depth implementation is already having a great impact.”

“Corwin Australia is committed to building Visible Learning^{plus} and working with schools, school regions, states and territories to build the capacity of all educators to see learning through the eyes of the students and to build students to be their own teachers,” Brad Rosairo said.

“Our immediate goals are to hire an all-star team and provide great service to schools and systems currently doing Visible Learning^{plus} professional development.

“The ultimate goal is to raise the standard of education in Australia and give educators the tools and skills to achieve better outcomes for all our students.”

Any ongoing program implementations will continue with Corwin.

Schools, networks, clusters and systems interested in Visible Learning^{plus} professional development or program implementations can contact Corwin at info@corwinaustralia.com call (03) 9667 0169 or visit www.corwinaustralia.com.au.

Shaping the future of international education

Austrade, the Australian Government’s international education promotion agency, is holding a series of open workshops across Australia seeking input on future directions for Australia’s international education and training sector.

The workshops are part of the AIE 2025 Roadshow and will help develop a long-term market plan, *Australian International Education (AIE) 2025*. They are open to all industry representatives and interested parties.

Austrade’s General Manager, Education, John Angley, said international education contributed \$17.6 billion to the national economy last year, making it Australia’s fourth-biggest export, and this could grow considerably.

“To unlock the potential we are seeking creative and bold thinking to identify sustainable opportunities matching Australia’s strengths and global trends,” Mr Angley said.

*email educationstrategy@austrade.gov.au
www.austrade.gov.au/AIE2025 or*

New touchscreen supplier

Touchscreen technology veteran Guy Monty led a team providing audiovisual solutions to the education market for a decade and has supplied integrated flat panels since 2011. He now helms a touchscreen company where expert consultation is at the heart of the business.

He says: “The Future Tech Co is a multi-brand, commercial grade touchscreen specialist. We believe large-format touchscreens are revolutionising the way we work, teach and learn.

“We specialise in commercial large-format touchscreens and supply only the highest quality products from the world’s leading brands with models to suit every need and budget.”

Brands available through The Future Tech Co include BENQ, Hitachi, LG, Philips, Panasonic, Sharp, TeamBoard, TouchIT and ViewSonic.

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