

## Posts of Weekly Updates

Friday, 24 January 2014

11:58 AM

Posts of Weekly Updates

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### [17/12/13](#)

Wednesday, 18 December 2013, 3:36:36 PM | jefflambert73@gmail.com (Jeff Lambert)

Dear Team,

Well here we are at the end of a very exciting year! I want to congratulate all of you on all that we have achieved together with our PPDP Alliance project. Jeff and I are building our PPDP PL website with a web designer at the moment and it looks very exciting. I am confident that the work we have done and the learning we have gained will be beneficial to many others around the state and beyond. I have attached a working document which outlines (albeit in a very linear fashion) the site map for the PL website for your information and input. We are also writing "the real story" as a narrative to complement the PL module and provide real examples of how schools in our alliance have put innovative and collaborative processes into practice ( see draft as it is, attached).

I am looking forward to hearing about the progress of QT Rounds in the eleven schools involved in 2014. In addition, I look forward to seeing the collaborative school partnerships continue to strengthen through the connections and processes that you have put in place this year. When I think of how much we have achieved in barely two terms, it is mind boggling!!

One final arm of our project which has been sitting in the background due to lack of time this year, was the plan to visit schools (possibly in VIC) to learn about how innovative practices are being implemented in other schools and particularly in schools who have more autonomy than we currently have in NSW. In this vein, AITSL have published a Local Leadership opportunity which fits this brief perfectly called the Local Leadership signature learning program - International Learning Offerings (see brochure attached). The program that I am flagging is the one on autonomy in the New Zealand system however, there would only be limited places available and all participants would need to pay for their own airfare and accommodation. I would need to assess the viability of this depending on interest so let me know ASAP if you would like me to pursue it.

In the meantime, have a fantastic Christmas and a relaxing break! Thank you again for your hard work in the past six months!

Stephanie

### [20/11/13](#)

Wednesday, 20 November 2013, 2:43:18 PM | jefflambert73@gmail.com (Jeff Lambert)

Hi Team,

Innovative professional learning continues to happen in our Learning Alliance!

1) Fifty-three people from twelve different schools (Primary, Secondary, rural/remote and urban) attended the two day **QT Rounds workshop** last week, facilitated by Julie Bowe of Newcastle University.

There are many exciting plans already emerging from this training, including collaborative rounds between a number of schools.

It was fantastic to have staff from Burke Ward Public School included in the training days via Adobe Connect.

2) Jeff and I have started working on the **professional learning module** which we are required to produce as a result of our learning experiences. We have decided to capture our learning in a website that will allow Principals and aspiring leaders around the state to access the tools that we have been using to embed collaboration and innovation in our schools.

I have attached a working draft of the website plan. Please note that it is VERY MUCH a work in progress, but we would appreciate your input and comments in relevant sections. (I have put a couple of names down already!!)

Have a great week!

Stephanie

**08/11/13**

Wednesday, 13 November 2013, 3:49:24 PM | jefflambert73@gmail.com (Jeff Lambert)

Dear team,

OK I realise that the weekly updates are getting later and later each week....!!

Ok here we go:

### **QT Rounds project with Julie Bowe -**

We are looking forward to welcoming 53 of you here to Turrumurra next Monday and Wednesday. Jeff has also arranged to link in to the regional schools who are involved via Adobe Connect. This is a really exciting part of the project which has generated a lot of interest from schools. It will provide us with a very sound tool to analyse teaching and learning practice within and between our schools.

### **Development of professional learning module -**

You might remember from our original grant application, that there are two parts to the PPDP project. There is the professional learning which we have done and are continuing to do as we embed the processes and strategies that we explored at our Magenta Shores conference.

It has been so exciting to see how each school or group of schools has found an aspect relevant to their context and pursued it.

The second part of the PPDP project is to actually use our learning experiences to develop a "professional learning module" which can be picked up and used by Principals and leaders around the state who want resources to develop innovation and collaboration in their school/s.

I received an email this week asking for our completed professional learning module by week 9 of this term!! :~ Don't panic, I'm not asking any of you to do it. Jeff and I already had a plan in mind for what this might look like from the outset. What I do need is your input with regard to your ongoing learning throughout this project and beyond the project itself. What processes, ideas, protocols have worked for you? How have you established practices which are sustainable? How have these practices or processes fostered collaboration or innovation? What was the most beneficial part of being involved in this project for you as a leader?

It would be really fantastic if you could either shoot me a few lines or a comprehensive report or anything in between to assist with the collation of our PL module. Naturally, if you want to play a bigger role in writing the module itself, let me know!!

Have a great weekend everyone!

Stephanie

## 31/10/13

Thursday, 31 October 2013, 5:07:16 PM | jefflambert73@gmail.com (Jeff Lambert)

Hi All,

It has been another fantastic week for our PPDP projects!

1) We had our first Hot Topics meeting this morning on the topic of "How do we meet the needs of 21st Century learners?" We are still experimenting with the technology and for a first run through, it was great. I would really encourage you to listen to the meeting on the link below as there were some really interesting points made that I would like to develop further in future meetings.

Here is the link to the Hot Topic recording.

<https://connect.schools.nsw.edu.au/p3fct1dbsrr/>

( from Jeff: Note to self...mute microphone next time we play audio!! We have a ghostly echo for Halloween during [name]'s interview!! )

Action we are taking on technology issues: In order to improve the interactivity of the hot topics meetings, it is really quite necessary for all participants to have a webcam, even if it is just to provide audio access for you to speak in the meeting. There is the option of typing your comments into the chat box but ideally, we want to have microphone access for everyone. Jeff sent out information last term which included an **offer for us to purchase a webcam for anyone who wanted one out of PPDP funds**. If you would like to take us up on this offer, please let me know.

Secondly, my IT guru (when he is not being my PA), Jeff, is **investigating the possibility of using VC facilities to hook into Adobe Connect**. This would allow people like you [name] and those who have easily accessible VC facilities, to use the camera and microphone from the VC for Adobe Connect meetings. Jeff will get back to us when he has a solution! :)

2) Another exciting development this week is the successful visit to Buronga and GolGol by staff from our Sydney Primary schools. The power of the connections being formed here was recognised by the local paper "Sunraysia Daily". The article is attached. Congratulations to the whole team involved in this exciting project. I look forward to hearing of the developments that are coming out of this collaboration.

3) Another really successful aspect of the project is the **'Tuning Protocol' VC meetings** that [name] is coordinating with a number of leaders including [name], [name], [name], [name], [name], [name] and [name]. The protocol that this team are trialling is attached to this email and will be available on our PPDP website for future reference.

4) The last thing is just to remind you that I need to have final numbers by next Monday for those wanting to attend the two day Julie Bowe QT Rounds workshops on the 11th and 13th November. For our regional colleague's info, IT guru Jeff has purchased a new conference camera this week and is working on setting up a VC environment via Adobe Connect so that we can involve you guys in the QT training days. More on that soon!!

Thanks everyone for your ongoing work with all aspects of our PPDP projects.

Stephanie

## 25/10/13

Friday, 25 October 2013, 2:22:24 PM | jefflambert73@gmail.com (Jeff Lambert)

Hi Team,

Just two key points for this week's update:

1) Hot Topics meeting will kick off next Thursday at 10am on the topic of "How to Cater for 21st Century Learners". Please look out for the link to the meeting site in your inbox and find it below.

It would be very helpful for [name] to know who will be attending this meeting. Could you please RSVP to either [name] or myself by Wednesday 30th?

**AdobeConnect link:** <https://connect.schools.nsw.edu.au/cater-4-21st-century-learners/>

2) The two day QT Rounds workshop with Julie Bowe is proving extremely popular and logistically challenging!!

. Please let me know ASAP how many staff you would like to send from your school.

**N.B. KSP Principals, you DO NOT have to do this as [name] is coordinating this for you.**

I am currently liaising with Julie on behalf of our regional leaders to try and organise a VC/Skype set up for the training days.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Stephanie

## 14/10/13

Wednesday, 16 October 2013, 12:06:15 PM | jefflambert73@gmail.com (Jeff Lambert)

Hi team and welcome back to Term 4!

My apologies for the lack of a weekly update last week - the days just seemed to run away from me! Since our last update we have lost a couple of key members - congratulations to our coach, [name] and [name] Principal, [name], on their appointment to Director's positions! We will miss you both. [name] was also the coach of another project team from the Broken Hill area. Fortunately we have some overlap between our teams through the Quality Teaching Rounds project so we can continue to support each other in the absence of our coaches!

I do have some more exciting information and some important dates to note in this update:

### **1) Developing leadership capacity through Instructional Rounds**

hereafter to be known as **Leading innovation through Quality Teaching Rounds**

For those of you who attended the Workshop run by Julie Bowe (University of Newcastle) AND for anyone else who is interested, we have locked in the dates for the two day QT Rounds workshops with Julie. They are **11th and 13th November** at Turramurra High School.

Julie has very limited availability so unfortunately, these dates are not negotiable. I hope that these suit the majority of us. Feel free to send an alternative member of staff if you can't attend. I know that our regional colleagues will need time to plan to travel for this period. Let me know if I can assist in any way.

### **2) Supporting leadership capacity across a variety of contexts** project

[name] has everything ready to go for the Adobe Connect 'Hot Topics' meetings. She sent out an email last term to ask for your input on times and topics for the meetings. I have attached this information to this email again in case you did not get a chance to reply. It seems that Thursday at 10am is currently the preferred meeting time. The first meeting will be next Thursday (week 3). I would have liked to kick off this week but we will give everyone a chance to get their head back into the term!

Finally, [name], [name], [name], [name] and others have been hard at work organising a group of 7 (possibly now 8) leaders from Sydney schools to visit our Regional partners. We look forward to hearing about their experiences.

Have a great week everyone! Jeff will put this update on the website and send you the weblink again. It is useful to have access to past weekly updates and project resources.

Stephanie

**11/9/13**

Wednesday, 11 September 2013, 2:07:44 PM | stephanieamcconnell69@gmail.com (Stephanie McConnell)

Hi Team,

Once again, we have had some exciting developments in our projects this week.

1) 'Supporting leadership capacity across a variety of contexts' project

[name] would like the 'Hot Topic' Adobe Connect meetings to commence next term. If you would like to host one of the meetings or have a burning hot topic that you would like to discuss, please contact [name].

[name] has booked flights and accommodation for seven leaders from KSP schools to travel to the schools in the Mildura area on the 27th - 29th October. This will open up numerous possibilities for collaborative projects that will be sustained into the future. It also provides a unique opportunity for Principal and aspiring leader professional development.

2) 'Developing leadership capacity through Instructional Rounds' project

Yesterday, Turrumurra High School hosted 32 Principals and school leaders for an inspiring professional learning day facilitated by Julie Bowe from the University of Newcastle. I think we will need to change the title of this project to 'Driving Innovation through Quality Teaching Rounds' as this is how the project appears to be evolving.

It was fantastic to have seven new participants on board with us as part of this project and I am particularly excited to welcome Bourke Ward Public school and Railway Town Public school on board.

All participants were challenged by Julie and (mostly) keen to commit to a further two days where Julie would intensively train up to four 'QT Rounds Champions' from each school to enable full implementation.

[name] has done an enormous amount of work liaising with Julie and has volunteered to continue in this role. [name] will be negotiating some dates with Julie and will notify us shortly of the options available.

It is important that the teams that attend these QT Champion training days brush up on their Quality Teaching framework. If you haven't already done so, the chapter from Jenny Gore's book that Jeff has loaded on this website, is a good start!

Thanks again team for your work on and participation in PPDP projects this week.

Hope you are having a great time in Jindabyne [name]!

Stephanie McConnell

**03/09/13**

Wednesday, 4 September 2013, 11:52:40 AM | jefflambert73@gmail.com (Jeff Lambert)

Dear Team,

Once again, it has been a busy and highly productive week in the exciting world of our PPDP projects!

Supporting leadership capacity across a variety of contexts:

- Hot Topic meetings are ready to launch. We are hoping to have our first one before the end of term.

- [name] hosted a VC last Friday to develop a plan for collaboration between Lindfield East, Beaumont Road, Hunters Hill, Narraweena, Buronga, Gol Gol and Wentworth Public Schools and Menindee Central School.

[name] and [name] are organising for three Sydney Principals and three Sydney aspiring leaders to travel to the far south west for a mini conference at the end of October. This conference will establish partnerships for reciprocal visits and explore the potential for Principal professional development between these schools.

The team are also developing a sustainable long term plan involving teacher exchanges, student visits etc. which will extend beyond the scope of our project but forge solid foundations for long term collaboration and innovation.

Developing leadership capacity through Instructional Rounds:

I sent out an email earlier this evening about the Julie Bowe conference next week.

Please RSVP for this ASAP.

Hope everyone is having a great week! Looking forward to seeing some of you here on the 10th September and as many as possible at our first hot topic meeting!!

Stephanie

**28/08/13**

Wednesday, 4 September 2013, 11:51:46 AM | jefflambert73@gmail.com (Jeff Lambert)

Hi Team,

It has been another really productive week for our PPDP projects.

1) 'Supporting leadership capacity across a variety of contexts':

Once again, [name] has worked tirelessly to put together a very impressive package of information about the 'Hot Topic' Adobe Connect meetings which you would have received from her yesterday. She has collated your responses from earlier emails to develop this package but if you have any comments, questions or thoughts about it, please let her know.

News Flash!! An exciting development under this project heading.... [name] (Lindfield East Public School) has organised a meeting this Friday between some members of KSP and leaders from some of our remote /rural schools. [name] will be joining this meeting via VC and the team will be discussing ideas for sharing Principal professional development opportunities between city and country schools. Looking forward to hearing more about the planning of this development!

2) 'Developing leadership capacity through Instructional Rounds':

As mentioned in last week's update, this project will kick off with a whole day professional learning seminar, facilitated by Julie Bowe from Newcastle University on 10th September. You are all very welcome to attend. It will be held at Turramurra High School. I will attempt to be really clever and register the course on MyPL to make it easier for you to register!

On a further note, Jeff has been busy again this week and has sent you an email to assist you in setting up your permissions to run an Adobe Connect meeting. It is a very simple process and starts with you sending an email to Scott Paterson requesting appropriate permissions to set up an Adobe Connect meeting. Jeff has also sent you a step by step how-to guide.

This is not only helpful for enabling our Hot Topics meetings to commence but Adobe Connect is a very useful collaboration tool that will assist us in building on our connections across NSW and beyond!

Jeff has also begun setting up our own 'PPDP Collaborations' website where all information, resources and information about our projects can be accessed. He hasn't gone live with it just yet, but look out for that in the near future!

Thanks again everyone for your ongoing hard work and participation! Hope you are having a great week!

Stephanie

**21/08/13**

Wednesday, 4 September 2013, 11:50:52 AM | jefflambert73@gmail.com (Jeff Lambert)

Dear Team,

There have been some exciting developments in our projects this week. Firstly, a big thank you to [name] and [name] for their hard work on moving things forward.

1) "Supporting leadership capacity across a variety of contexts" project:

[name] and Jeff have met this week about Adobe Connect and how to set up a meeting.

Jeff has developed a "How-to" guide for presenters to ensure easy access to the tool.

[name] is finalising a schedule and set of protocols for the meeting structure, timing and frequency. She has also designed an invitation so that everyone is aware of the next meeting and hot topic.

[name] has had a busy week but is progressing a number of sharing options with rural and Victorian schools.

2) "Developing leadership capacity through Instructional Rounds" project:

[name] has liaised with Julie Bowe (Newcastle University) and negotiated for Julie to work with our team. This will involve two professional learning days which Julie will facilitate. The first of these is booked for **10th SEPTEMBER at Turramurra High School**.

ALL members of our PPDP team are welcome to attend regardless of whether you were attached to this project team or not.

Please let me or [name] know if you are planning to come so that I can organise catering.

There are a number of our team who were not able to be at the planning session on the Friday of the Conference. I am conscious that you may feel disconnected from the projects and would like the opportunity to talk to you about how you might like to be involved. If this applies to you, please respond to this email so that I can arrange a time to either visit you in person or call you at a convenient time and talk through the ideas behind the projects.

There are a number of other facets to the two projects that can be developed. Project one, for example, includes a number of sharing opportunities between urban and rural schools as well as a possible connection between NSW and Victorian schools. Both projects are evolving and are shaped by the needs of our team, so please take the opportunity to connect to one or both projects.

Stephanie

**13/08/13**

Wednesday, 4 September 2013, 11:49:58 AM | jefflambert73@gmail.com (Jeff Lambert)

Good morning team,

I'll be sending you a weekly report on the development of our projects so that we all know what is going on. In working across such a broad range of school contexts, it is really important that we are all informed and included throughout the project...and beyond!

To this end, please feel free to make suggestions, contributions, input ideas on anything that is happening in our projects. If anyone has a suggestion for how we might communicate more effectively via an online forum, please let me know.

1) Update on "Supporting leadership capacity across a variety of school contexts" project (we need a better name for this one!) - Contact: [name]

- [name] has been doing a fabulous job of planning for the initiation of the "hot topics" meetings. She and [name] are liaising on building connections between city and rural school leaders to get them on board.

-[name] and Jeff will be setting up the Adobe connect meeting room to enable the meetings to begin

-I am making assumptions here [name], but I believe that we would like input on:

(i) How to structure the meetings. we need to have a clear plan for this.

(ii) When would be the best time to hold the meetings....(fortnightly)? How often? Should the time change each time or is it better to make it the same time (regular time is easier to commit to??)

(iii) How do we advertise it? To whom? (Just project team initially, then all Principals/school leaders??)

(iv) How do people register their hot topic if they want to raise an area for discussion? Do we set up a series of topics for the term initially?

(v) Who "leads each meeting? Does this change each time or do we need one person to lead it?

- [name] will be meeting with some of the Victorian Principals just over the border and seek their engagement with the Adobe Connect meetings. She will also determine the viability of running a conference in the Mildura area for NSW and Vic Principals. I'm sure [name] would appreciate your input on what we would want out of such a conference. What would we want to do?

2) Update on 'Developing leadership capacity through Instructional Rounds' - Contact: [name]

- [name] has made contact with Julie Bowe at Newcastle University. She is very keen to work with us and is organising a package for us to consider regarding her involvement. This pack will include dates when she is available to meet.

I would suggest that we arrange a meeting of the whole team at a time to include Julie. The team can then make some decisions on how they would like to proceed and shape the project from there.

Thanks everyone for your work in the past week on the projects. I hope you have managed to complete your Conference evaluation as per Jeff's email and enjoyed seeing yourself in the photos on the Conference summary prezi!

Stephanie