

# ACT Toolbox news

Issue 2, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2007

## Hello and welcome,

This is the second issue of our "ACT Toolbox News" email for 2007. We produce this e-letter monthly to keep you up to date with Toolbox news and events in the ACT. If you don't wish to receive the email newsletter, please email [helen.lynch@cit.act.edu.au](mailto:helen.lynch@cit.act.edu.au)

We are always keen to include stories or experiences you or your learners have had with Flexible Learning Toolboxes. So please let us know about them!

So what's new?



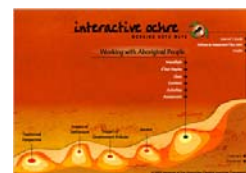
## Launch of Series 9 Toolboxes

Thanks to all e-learning practitioners, teachers and educational administrators who attended the breakfast launch of the Series 9 Toolboxes at the Crowne Plaza this morning!



Peter LeCornu, Australian Flexible Learning Framework ACT Steering Committee Chair spoke about the new Toolboxes and other Framework activities such as LearnScope. Thank you Peter! Peter introduced Helen Lynch, the new ACT Toolbox Champion and Kerry Manikis, the ACT Framework Coordinator. Kerry mentioned the free professional development day on Tuesday 3 July and the e-newsletter. For more information contact Kerry on (02) 6207 3267 or visit <http://flexiblelearning.net.au/learnscope/act>

Helen demonstrated a number of the new Toolboxes, notably "[Interactive Ochre](#)", a multi media rich Indigenous cultural awareness Toolbox with applications in any organisation delivering diversity or cultural awareness training.



The new [Public Safety](#) Toolbox was briefly viewed. It is ideal for any group teaching in the community safety industry or organisations having identified community safety issues, eg, State Emergency Services, Country Fire Authority, Local Councils, Police Service.

The [Employment Services Toolbox](#) (delivering the Certificate IV in Employment Services) was briefly demonstrated as was the [e-Commerce](#) Toolbox. This Information Technology Toolbox is resource rich, complex and sophisticated mirroring the demands of the IT consulting workplace. All Toolboxes can be previewed at: <http://toolboxes.flexiblelearning.net.au/>

Although we didn't get to see the [Metals Fabrication](#), [Food Safety Auditor](#) or [Automotive Mechanical Technology & Vehicle Body](#) each makes an exciting contribution to flexible learning through imaginative use of text and multi media resources, authentic workplace simulations and application of appropriate learning theory and educational design.

### **Teachers in Further Training explore Interactive Ochre**

VET teachers beefing up their teaching qualifications via study at CIT heard about Interactive Ochre; asked Susanne Francisco, their course co-ordinator, to organise a demonstration. Susanne approached Helen to demonstrate the Toolbox and with the help of Helen, Rebecca Trynes and Susanne, students were able to view and critique the Toolbox as a teaching tool. They found the Toolbox to be an inventive, powerful and impressive resource for their current and future classrooms!

### **The Toolbox Learning Object Repository**

Toolbox Repository will soon be updated to include components from the Series 9 Toolboxes. The Repository houses "deconstructed" Toolboxes that can be made freely available to the public, educators and learners. Such repositories, called learning object repositories or sometimes digital libraries, exist world wide and are opportunities for educators to share resources with each other and with their learners.

Developing a LOR is not an easy task and here are many approaches to the work – to read about the Canadian one go to:

<http://www.canarie.ca/funding/elearning/lor.pdf>

This article has a sound explanation of the concepts and practical challenges presented by LO and LOR.

The Australian Flexible Learning Framework's [Learning Object Repository Network](#) is an emerging example of Australian work contributing to the development of such valuable resource networks.

### **A Pre Launch Preview**

CIT Educational Development Centre staff were treated to an early "look" at the new Toolboxes on 20<sup>th</sup> March at Southside Campus – sort of a CIT Pre Launch Preview!

Again staff were impressed with the sound educational design principles obviously underpinning these learning objects and with the use of multi media and text resources, authentic workplace simulations and scenarios; and in the case of "Interactive Ochre" the music and music videos were also greatly enjoyed!

### **About the Flexible Learning Toolboxes:**

Flexible Learning Toolboxes are e-learning resources designed to facilitate the teaching of training package qualifications online. They can be installed on the internet or an intranet or can be run from CD-ROM and they can be customised to suit individual teachers' requirements or to operate within a learning management system like WebCT. The full range of Toolboxes can be viewed on the web at <http://www.flexiblelearning.net.au/toolbox>.

### **Toolboxes can be ordered from Australian Training Products:**

Phone: (03) 9655 0600

Fax: (03) 9639 4684 or

Email: [sales@atpl.net.au](mailto:sales@atpl.net.au) to place an order.

Contact the ACT Toolbox Champion team (see contact details below) to get some help with your Toolbox questions or visit the website at

<http://toolboxes.flexiblelearning.net.au/champions/act/index.htm>

We hope you are able to forward this e-newsletter to your colleagues and staff who you think would benefit from the provided information.

### **For more enquiries about Toolboxes or Flexible Learning in the ACT in general, contact**

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