

OLPC Bulletin



Edition 2, June 2009



“May was a monumental month! This second edition of the OLPC Bulletin gives you an overview of the progress we have made, the remarkable people we have met and some of the exciting things we have in the pipeline.”

Rangan Srikhanta, Executive Director, OLPC Australia



The Latest

- On May 27, OLPC Australia formally launched its remote education initiative at a ceremony on the grounds of Shepherdson College on Elcho Island, one of the first three schools to receive the XO laptops
- Guests from OLPC Australia, partner CBA and the NT Department of Education and Training were welcomed to Elcho Island by Traditional Landowner Richard Gandhuwuy
- Guests toured four classrooms where children demonstrated the unique benefits of their new educational devices
- The Prime Minister of Australia, the Honorable Kevin Rudd, sent a congratulatory letter that was read out at the ceremony
- Shepherdson students performed songs with Manuel Dhurrkay, the lead singer of Australian band Saltwater, including one specially composed to thank OLPC
- Read personal accounts of the Elcho Island deployment at <http://www.laptop.org.au/news/mementos.shtml>
- OLPC Australia welcomed Michael Harte, CIO of partner CBA, to its Board of Directors
- The charity has appointed two new staff members
- Peg Thatcher has more than 10 years of experience in the not-for-profit sector, and will play a strategic fundraising role
- Penny Bowden has taken on the marketing support and administrative role

What's Happening

- OLPC Australia will roll out another 5,000 laptops in the next six months, beginning with schools in the Northern Territory and Queensland
- OLPC's partner CBA will host a corporate golf day on June 25 to raise money for the charity
- OLPC has received its first major donation of \$500,000
- On July 22, OLPC Australia will host an awareness-raising event at Government House, NSW

Rollout Progress



A support teacher of Shepherdson College (NT) instructs her student on how to use the XO.



Schools

003



Laptops

400

My Education. Our Future.

“The Green Machines, as we know them, have added excitement, interest and more importantly, intellectual quality, to both pedagogical practices of teachers and learning experiences of students.

“The XO laptops are not toys, they are robust, quality machines with a range of exceptional educational programs that have stimulated students, teachers and assistant teachers into learning with a different medium.

“The magic of owning their own laptop has already seen a boost to attendance in the four classes that now own them.”

Bryan Hughes
Principal of Shepherdson College

