Trendsetter Webinar: 2020 (Re)visioning Education for the future

Bios

Chair

**Professor Mary Ryan – Dean, Macquarie School of Education**

Mary Ryan is Professor and Dean of Education at Macquarie University. She is a Principal Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy and is the recipient of a national citation for outstanding contributions to student learning.

Mary is currently leading Australian Research Council funded projects in classroom writing and preparing reflexive teachers for diverse classrooms. Her research is in the areas of writing pedagogy and assessment, reflective writing, teachers’ work and professional learning, the enabling and constraining conditions for graduating students to manage the demands of their profession, and reflexive learning and practice.

Panel

**Stephanie McConnell – Principal, Lindfield Learning Village**

In her role as Principal of Lindfield Learning Village, Stephanie McConnell is developing the new educational model for NSW Public Education and leading a school of the future. Stephanie is a Macquarie University alumna (BA/DipEd 1991) and has been a secondary school teacher since 1991, with 28 years of experience with teenagers. The first fifteen years of her teaching career were spent as an English teacher at Merrylands High school. She moved to a Head Teacher English position just prior to moving to Killara High School. After four years at Killara, she moved on to the Deputy Principal role at Turramurra High School and was appointed to the role of Principal a year later.

Her passion is to shift the “default position” of education from a 19th century model to one which not only meets but excels in meeting the needs of the young people of today as they head out in to a future which requires them to be agile, flexible and adaptable learners.

**Andrew Williamson - Principal, Carlingford West Public School**

Andrew has had a varied career working as a teacher in both the Government and Non-Government settings, including both special education and mainstream schools. Andrew has worked as an Assistant Principal at Waitara Public School, Deputy Principal at Chatswood Public School and Principal at Narrabeena Public School. He is currently the Principal of Carlingford West Public School.

Since starting at Carlingford West Public School in 2015 the school has grown from 809 students to 1,677 students in 2020. This significant growth in student numbers has presented various challenges and opportunities. Carlingford West is an Apple Distinguished School and a Professional Experience Hub School for Macquarie University.
Dr Luke Touhill - Director, Mia Mia Child and Family Study Centre, Macquarie University

Luke is the director of Mia Mia Child and Family Study Centre at Macquarie University. Mia Mia is the demonstration early childhood program for the School of Education and has an international reputation as a centre for outstanding early childhood practice.

Luke has over 25 years experience working in early childhood education as a teacher, manager and academic. His professional interests include early childhood curriculum, the history of early childhood education and the design of early childhood learning environments.

Natasha Copley - Human Resources Director Human Resources, DXC Australia and New Zealand

Natasha Copley is a Macquarie University alumna (BA/DipEd 1999) and an experienced human resources leader, change manager and consultant having spent more than 20 years’ working in senior leadership roles across a range of industries such as IT, professional services, television and bio-technology. Natasha is passionate about leadership development, improving the employee experience and creating a strong sense of connection and belonging with the sure knowledge that this will bring with it commercial success.

At DXC, Natasha leads all aspects of human resources, including talent acquisition and retention, compensation and benefits, talent development and organisation engagement, learning and development, as well as diversity and inclusion. Prior to her current role, Natasha served as head of talent and learning for DXC in the Asia and Australia/New Zealand regions, with responsibility for performance management, coaching, reskilling, talent management, succession planning, executive development and business consulting.

Associate Professor Tiffany Jones – School of Education, Macquarie University

Associate Professor Tiffany Jones (BCA, BEd-Hons1, PhD) is a sociologist who researches LGBTIQ+ issues in education, education policy and social policy. Her projects have been supported by the ARC (DECRA, Linkage), UNESCO, beyondblue, governments and many other bodies. Her peer-reviewed books include new releases 'A Student-centred Sociology of Education: Voices of Experience' and 'Uplifting Gender and Sexuality Education Research'.

Associate Professor Jones liaises and constructs technical, policy and data reports with UN bodies, including the recent report 'Bringing it Out in the Open: Monitoring school violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression in national and international surveys'. She works with various international and local/ state government and non-government organisations, on policy development around education equity issues.
Associate Professor Matt Bower - School of Education, Macquarie University

Matt Bower is an associate professor and Macquarie alumnus (BCon 1994, GradDipEd 1996, BSc 2005, PhD 2008) who specialises in the innovative use of technology for learning purposes. He is particularly interested in how contemporary technologies such as augmented reality, virtual worlds, online technologies, virtual reality, and so on can be most effectively used to support cognitive development and collaborative learning. Matt has over ninety peer reviewed publications in the area of technology-enhanced learning design, teacher education, and computing education.

Matt has led several funded grant projects and participated in many other research initiatives (total funding exceeds $2M). He is author of the internationally award-winning book “Design of technology-enhanced learning - integrating research and practice” which aims to directly support educators worldwide to infuse research into their teaching.

Matt has been awarded an Australian Office for Learning and Teaching Citation Award for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning and is regularly invited to deliver keynote and plenary presentations on topics such as augmented reality, blended-synchronous learning and learning design.