Report WAND Sharing Day 2012

The 2012 WAND Sharing Day was integrated into Edith Cowan University’s eCULTURE staff event on 7th November with the aim of engaging with a large number of staff who had not previously attended WAND events. The event was held at the Joondalup campus, and was entitled *How Students Learn: environment, process, values, illuminating our practice.*

As anticipated over 170 staff attended providing a good audience for WAND presenters and an excellent crowd and atmosphere in which to share the word about the West Australian Network for Dissemination (WAND). 35 attendees were affiliated WAND in that they attended the event in response to WAND advertising. Nearly all members of the WAND committee and some of the WAND Directors also attended. The event provided an opportunity to promote WAND and the recently completed WAND website (wand.edu.au).
The day began with a very interesting keynote from Sally Kift, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of James Cook University, whose address was entitled Transition Pedagogy: The foundation for learning, success and retention. This was followed by presentations around the use of ePortfolios led by ECU’s Professor Ron Oliver, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Teaching, Learning and International). This session provided an opportunity for Tony Fetherston, representing the WAND Committee, to speak about WAND and encourage the large audience to engage with WAND segments of the program.

On display were 9 WAND and 8 ECU posters and these were viewed over the long lunch period. The two WAND affiliated presenters, Mark Israel (UWA) and Dawn Bennett (Curtin University) in the conference sessions were well received. In general, sessions were very well attended with standing room only in quite a few. This highlights the growing importance of SOTL and underpins the vital role WAND can play in this area.

This was a successful dissemination event for the WAND project with WAND banners being displayed, leaflets distributed to ECU staff and information displayed on the overhead slide in the main lecture theatre. In addition participants received a free thumb drive, which contained not only all the papers and posters from the day but also information about WAND. The efforts of the ECU staff and WAND Project committee representative Tony Fetherston are to be congratulated for a successful networking event which met the aims of the WAND Sharing Day and brought a broader range of academic staff into contact with WAND and their colleagues in WA. It has resulted in brokering a potential extension grant and has demonstrated a good model for future sharing.