



## **ICDL PAVES THE WAY FOR ICT AT LOURDES HILL COLLEGE**

For many years, teachers at Lourdes Hill College (LHC) wanted to participate in some form of IT training in order to move closer towards achieving the integration of ICT across the curriculum. LHC had a number of skills standards that needed to be met, including:

- A recognised qualification
- Manageable
- Flexible delivery
- Relevant
- Sustainable

Following an extensive search, LHC settled on the ICDL program in 2002. It was chosen because it offered an internationally recognised qualification mapped to Certificate I in IT within Australia, and provided a range of basic IT skills that were relevant, immediately useful and established a solid foundation for further development. It also offered the flexibility for teachers to be able to complete the course at their own pace and in their own time.

LHC began training staff in 2002 using paper-based resources and testing, that proved adequate but difficult to manage. In 2003, they implemented AutoTest, an automated testing system from Electric Paper. AutoTest has enabled LHC to streamline the allocation and marking of tests as well as providing immediate results and assisting in the generation of reports.

Shortly after, LHC began using Electric Paper's self-paced, online courseware. Currently, staff members are able to access the courseware and complete tests from anywhere within the College, as well as remotely. LHC supports the program by offering face-to-face assistance to staff every second Friday with a pizza lunch provided, as well as on professional development days.

### **LHC Extends ICDL**

In 2005, LHC started offering the ICDL program to students as the first step towards achieving certificate level qualifications in IT.

"We have some students in a timetabled class completing the course, as well as students who complete the course at other times," said Kym Coleman, IT Coordinator, LHC.

Kym adds, "In addition, we currently have 16 staff members who have received their ICDL and approximately 20 more who are in the process of completing the course.

The students are also making good progress and are enjoying the different style of delivery and testing." "Our staff and students are also eagerly awaiting the release of the advanced ICDL syllabus."