

Introduction

In this edition of Paddling Around we have the latest information about the 1st PebblePad Conference scheduled for June 2010, another member of staff joins the team and some reflections on our teams visits to various parts of the world. You may be receiving Paddling Around as a link from our new electronic newsletter. If you are and you don't like receiving it in this way you can easily unsubscribe. If you didn't receive the email newsletter or would like to share the news with a colleague you can subscribe using the URL at the bottom of page 2.

1st PebblePad Conference

Since the first announcement all of our conversations with you suggest real excitement about the inaugural PebblePad Conference. In this newsletter (and in more depth on the website) we're delighted to be able to confirm 3 key speakers; outline the conference structure and reveal the very attractive conference packages.

1st PebblePad Conference
8-10 June 2010, Shifnal, Shropshire, UK
<http://www.pebblepad.co.uk/conference.asp>

The programme will be a mixture of insightful case-studies, special interest sessions and inspiring keynotes from leading thinkers in portfolios and personal learning. Of course, there'll also be an update on PebblePad developments, expert sessions and a first look at PebblePad 3!

Darren Cambridge, whose eagerly anticipated book will be published around the same time as the conference, will be flying into the conference from George Mason University. Darren enjoys international acclaim for his eportfolio work and never fails to extend our thinking in this arena.

Geoff Rebbeck has been amusing, engaging and educating audiences since he first started using PebblePad three years ago. Whilst still an influential figure at Thanet College Geoff has exported his experiences and now advises the JISC, BECTA and the IfL on effective use of 'personal learning systems'.

Julie Hughes is an inspiring teacher and a motivating force for the staff and students she works with. Julie will 'story' the ups and downs of being an eportfolio teacher working at the 'bleeding edge'.

Get ready, registration opens 5th November!
Find out more here: <http://www.pebblepad.co.uk/conference>

Joys of Travel

One of the main reasons for Colin and Shane's recent visit to Australia was to attend the UniSA ePortfolio showcase event in Adelaide. Sadly they hadn't taken freakish weather into account. Arriving at Bathurst airport an hour before their flight was earlier than local custom dictated - as the airport was locked and in darkness! It wasn't long before someone came along and opened up, but the darkness remained due to a power cut caused by a dust storm. During the night a large part of the out-back was blown over New South Wales meaning the sky had

a strange red tint and all flights were grounded. Six hours later the flight finally got off the ground, heading for Sydney, where the original connecting flight was still waiting. After another delay the Pebble duo headed off to Adelaide, arriving at the showcase just as post event wine and nibbles were being served!

Introducing New Australian ePortfolio Consultant



Alison Poot

Pebble Learning now has an eportfolio consultant 'down under'!! We are delighted to welcome Alison Poot as the latest member of our team. Alison hails from lovely Launceston, in Tasmania, Australia and has the job of supporting our growing customer base in Australasia. Alison has been involved in the Higher Education sector for more than 20 years in a variety of roles including student counselling, coordination of first year and

retention programs, evaluation and quality assurance, and project management. She comes to us from the University of Tasmania where, amongst other tasks, she managed the ePortfolio Project, including the implementation of PebblePad.

We are delighted that Alison will start on 11 January 2010!

Moodle Block

Did you know that PebblePad is more interoperable with Moodle than Mahara? There's a Moodle Block built by the Pebble team that allows users to launch and automatically sign in to their PebblePad account.



They can also quickly create assets within Moodle and then save directly to their PebblePad account and can even export their posts from the Blog and Forum in Moodle. Assignments and other resources can also be saved from Moodle to PebblePad. Go to www.pebblepad.co.uk/moodle to see a short video of the block in action and for details on downloading the block. Next trick, a Blackboard Block!

New Customers

As you'd expect at the start of the new academic year we've welcomed a number of new pilots including two new JISC-funded projects (TELSTAR, at UCLAN and PC3 at LeedsMet). Significant 'signings' - to use footy parlance - include the University of Sydney and Greenwich University.

We're also delighted that another professional body has decided to use PebblePad. The Faculty of General Dental Practice is the academic home for general dental practitioners. Based at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, its aim is to improve the standard of care delivered to patients through standard setting, postgraduate training and assessment, education and research.

Interview with a PebblePaddler; Moira Savage, University of Worcester

Moira is a Senior Lecturer in Primary Education at the University of Worcester. She is also studying for a PhD titled "The role of e-portfolios in promoting reflection and transformation of practice for trainee teachers in Primary Information and Communication Technology."



Moira Savage

How long have you been a PebblePad user?

I personally have been using PebblePad for 3 years. In 2008 the University of Worcester purchased PebblePad as a Personal Learning System.

"We have received excellent feedback from our external examiner who has recognised a positive change in the assessment practice; resulting in greater depths of peer-support and tutor's now providing both formative and summative feedback as students progress through their assignments."

Can you describe your experience of using PebblePad?

Since the pilot phase in 2007 I have been using PebblePad with PGCE and Undergraduate BA Hons with Qualified Teacher Status students. The amount of users has grown steadily with approximately 250 students accessing PebblePad for the 2009-10 academic year.

How do you use PebblePad with your students?

The Primary ICT e-Portfolio is a compulsory assessment task for all Primary ITT trainees. The e-Portfolio brings together individual and collaborative tasks from the ICT modules, the ICT school-based tasks from school placements - all within the umbrella of the QTS standards.

The two main aims of the ICT e-Portfolio project are; firstly, to enable trainees to include digital artefacts and secondly, to facilitate a greater degree of reflection upon practice.

Moira's full interview is on our website at <http://www.pebblepad.co.uk/paddlers.asp>

Power tips

Sending bulk messages to users through Gateways



As an Owner or Tutor on a Gateway you can send bulk messages to your Gateway users by clicking on the 'Manage Gateway' tab on the left hand side of the screen and clicking 'Send a message'. You can select the target audience and write a plain text message which when sent will appear in your users email inbox.

Tagging and sharing assets to share tags...



If you tag and share an asset with copy permissions it enables the receiver to automatically receive the tag into their tag list. This could be really useful if you want your students to use specific tags for courses. Simply create an asset template, tag it and share it with copy permissions.

New Case Studies

Would you like to feature as one of our PebblePad case studies or do you know someone who would? If so we would like to hear from you.

It would be particularly nice if some of your students wished to take part to and share their experiences working with PebblePad. For more information please contact Matthew at matthew@pebblepad.co.uk

iPhone App – first glimpse



We are currently developing a PebblePad iPhone app which will allow users to work with PebblePad on the move. Features currently include viewing your assets, uploading a file, creating a thought and posting this to a blog. This is still an ongoing project due for release in the very near future.

Pebble Paddlers Community

Have you joined the Paddlers Community yet? The aim is to bring together educators and learning technologists who support learners and/or colleagues using PebblePad. It is partly an extension of this newsletter and partly a resource bank for things like profiles and proformas.

Hopefully you'll be able to make use of the examples we've provided; more importantly we hope you'll share your examples with other 'paddlers'. <http://www.pebblepad.co.uk/paddlers.asp>

Events

02 - 03 December 2009, **Melbourne** – Advanced User Workshops
04 December 2009, **Melbourne** – ePortfolio Forum at RMIT

More information: <http://www.pebblepad.co.uk/events.asp>

Conferences

06 - 09 December 2009, **Auckland, New Zealand** – Ascilite 2009
08 - 10 June 2010, **Shropshire, UK** – 1st PebblePad Conference

Online Meetings

If you would like to arrange a meeting, see a demo or just have a chat about PebblePad feel free to get in touch (enquiries@pebblelearning.co.uk) and we'll be delighted to organise an online meeting, showcasing PebblePad.

Contact us

Pebble Learning Ltd.
e-Innovation Centre
University of Wolverhampton
Shifnal Road
Telford
TF2 9FT

+441952 288300
<http://www.pebblepad.co.uk>
enquiries@pebblelearning.co.uk

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