



BRAD HOWARTH
EDITORIAL
CONSULTANT

Brad Howarth is a writer and journalist who has contributed to numerous publications in Australia and the US over the past 10 years. For four and a half years Brad was a senior writer with the business magazine *BRW*, where he held the positions of both Information Technology Editor and Marketing Editor. Brad has also worked as a journalist for the technology section of *The Australian*.

Since leaving *BRW* in March 2004 Brad has worked as a freelance journalist, writing across a wide range of topics, including technology, marketing, entrepreneurship, entertainment and foreign affairs.



MS MEGABYTE
CONTRIBUTOR

Ms Megabyte's mission is to take the hard out of hardware, the science out of software and remove the fears and frustrations often associated with everyday technology.

Having spent many years working with Microsoft in Australia and the UK, Mega has since spent her time advising high profile corporations and personal users how to get the most from their computers.

Mega regularly shares her everyday computing tips and tricks in the media. She's helped thousands of Australians embrace the technology, appearing regularly on *9am with David and Kim*, *GMA* and *The Today Show*. Not to mention writing for various magazines like *Woman's Day* and *Women's Weekly*.



LEE HOPKINS
CONTRIBUTOR

A keen and active member of the International Association of Business Communicators and an invited author to the highly respected *Journal of Employee Communication Management*, Lee is a widely-read commentator on communication issues.

Along with fellow business communicators he is at the forefront of new communication technologies and regularly showcases and demonstrates to businesses how they too can 'marry' proven communication practices with new technology. He is a highly-acclaimed practitioner who many have said is one of Australia's leading thinkers on communication strategy in an online environment.



ROSS MONAGHAN
CONTRIBUTOR

Ross Monaghan is a business communication and issues management specialist with more than 17 years communications experience in public relations, general management and journalism.

A former chief executive officer of the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association, and chairman of the Mobile Carriers Forum, Ross has advised and represented some of Australia's largest organisations such as BHP, Telstra and Optus. He has a unique combination of communications theory and practical experience.

MINISTER'S FOREWORD



Welcome to the NSW Government's Information Communications Technology (ICT) Guide for parents.

ICT has revolutionised the way the world communicates and the way our students are taught at school.

Students have embraced ICT, using it with a familiarity and ease that can sometimes leave parents scratching their heads.

Computers are widely used in the school curriculum from K-12 and our schools are protected by strong internet filters that prevent inappropriate usage or access to offensive sites.

Given many families also use ICT at home, this guide has been developed to help parents protect their children at home or when they are out with friends.

This guide helps to explain what ICT does and is capable of doing. It explains much of the jargon and many of the buzz words that are unique to the world of the Internet, mobile phone and other technologies.

You may have concerns about who your child is talking to when they "chat" online or text on their mobile phone. You may also have concerns about certain sites you don't want your child to log onto or look at, or about who is looking at a personal site that your child has set up.

This guide will help you to find your way around those and similar issues, and give you guidance on

how to deal with them - and it does so in plain English.

It will take you through the world of blogs, wikis, vodcasts and podcasts. It will tell you about virtual worlds. And it explains what your child is doing on social networking sites like MySpace, Bebo, Facebook, and YouTube - and what you should ensure they are on their guard against.

The NSW Government is ensuring that our public school students are in the forefront of progress when it comes to ICT. We have rolled out computers in every school; every student has an email account and will have their own online workspace by 2011; and we are increasing the speed, security and reliability of our computer network.

This guide will give you a good understanding of our school technology, as well as the technology your child is using at home. It is also available on our departmental website www.schools.nsw.edu.au, and will be regularly updated with new developments in the ICT industry and in our schools.

The Hon John Della Bosca MLC
Minister for Education and Training