

Teacher recognised for interactive style

BY VANESSA ILICIC

Waikerie High School teacher Emma Hobson has been internationally recognised for her interactive teaching style.

Ms Hobson – who teaches English and Society and the Environment – is technology company DYMO/Mimio's Asia Pacific featured educator of the month.

The honour acknowledges her success in transforming standard classrooms into interactive learning hubs with new technologies.

Ms Hobson said her main tool is a portable device, which she attaches to whiteboards.

"It's a separate device to the whiteboard and it uses a wireless technology," she said.

"You can interact with the whiteboard and it has attachments you can use that create other input you can view on the screen if you have a projector plugged in."

One of those attachments is a document camera, which Ms

Hobson uses to project an item from a desk onto the whiteboard, saving students from crowding around it.

Often, Ms Hobson will mark the projected image with a special pen.

"I can add shapes, I can highlight, I can cut things out," she said.

"I can take a snippet of a website or something else that's on the computer and annotate it.

"Anything I do, I can save it and print it as well."

Ms Hobson said that while she has long been using a laptop and projector to teach, the new technologies made classes "just a little bit more interactive".

"The students can grab the pen and they can write their answers, they can highlight things, they can move things," she said.

Ms Hobson added that students "absolutely loved" using another hand-held device, which allows them to answer multiple-choice questions.

"They like it because they have got it in their hand, they can press a button, the computer saves it and they don't necessarily have to write," she said.

"It's just a different way of learning and responding."

Having used the interactive teaching technologies since the start of this year, Ms Hobson said it was "too hard" to say whether they will improve student outcomes.

"I'm still new and experimenting with how to use it," she said.

"But I think particularly for the visual learners that need to see something ... it is helpful.

"So whether it's images, or having things pointed out or broken down into a few extra steps, I think that is, hopefully in the end, more useful."

Waikerie High School received the DYMO/Mimio education tools for free as part of the company's South Australian seeding program.



ABOVE: Waikerie High School teacher Emma Hobson has been internationally recognised for using interactive education tools.