



At Pakenham Lakeside Primary School the design of our facilities presents great opportunities to implement contemporary teaching and learning approaches that cater for a variety of learning styles and student groupings.

Recently we engaged Ken Woodman and Ben Cleveland to work with our staff on maximising the teaching and learning opportunities that exist within our physical environment.

The workshop they facilitated was informative, challenging and extremely practical. During the course of the day all staff developed a contextual understanding of how we have arrived at our current school design and the potential that exists providing engaging and diverse learning opportunities in our spatial environment.

We had the opportunity to work in groups with staff using learning experiences to inform and define learning settings. This 'hands on' activity generated substantial conversation and stimulated a number of innovative designs and layouts. These discussions and sharing of ideas illustrated the many potential arrangements that could be created within our learning spaces.

As a starting point for further discussion amongst the staff we defined our current "learning situation" for our school and our student cohort and articulated a collective vision of where we would be in twelve months time. This backwards mapping activity to reach our vision identified the risks and opportunities that we will encounter as we endeavour to implement our knowledge and learning from the workshop.

The final session of our day involved staff applying their ideas and creating the learning settings which had been discussed, created and designed earlier in the day. In just a short time there had been a major transformation in the use and positioning of our furniture and a significant shift in our thinking regarding how certain learning modalities could be implemented.

The informal feedback from staff throughout the day indicated that they had found the program both enjoyable and very engaging. This validated my observations during the day as I believed it was one of the most challenging and innovative programs I have had the opportunity to experience.

Gary Norbury

Principal

Pakenham Lakeside Primary School

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