



Simply a Better Team

<http://www.pcschool.net>

# PCSchool Conference Update

June 2005

Volume 2, Issue 2

## Special points of interest:

- NZ Accreditation
- 2005 Financial Conference Sept 30th/Oct 2nd
- MCEETYA Requirements
- PCS Help
- Latest update
- Improved eMerge
- Conference Registration

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## Welcome

Much has happened since our last communication. The programming centre has been very busy in delivering the [latest update](#) which is now available on our Web site. The enhancements included in this update are outlined in the [documentation associated](#) with the update and also available on the Web site. **The update contains some changes that are necessary for Australian Pay-**

**roll Users in the production of Payment Summaries. Be sure to load the update prior to their production.**

Many schools have used the new Curriculum Result Entry by Spreadsheet for the first time during the recent assessment reporting period. Three have used the "Spider" web interface to enable staff to access this control from home. The feedback that we have received was ex-

tremely positive with acceptance by teachers at a very high level. This control enables schools to customize the result entry screen to reflect the design of the final report. Data entry is very intuitive and fast. This control also includes a Teacher Mark Book, also accessible over the Web and enabling direct transfer of results from the Mark Book to the Result Entry screen.

## New Zealand Accreditation

PCSchool is very pleased to announce its "Accredited" status with the Ministry of Education. It has been three years since embarking on this accreditation journey and we are pleased to be able to deliver on the undertaking given to those schools that have shown their faith in our product and our team.

The testimonial below is high praise indeed and a result that we are very proud of. We would like to sincerely thank our current

schools for their ongoing support and past guidance. We look forward to continuing to grow the software, both in functionality and market share, PCSchool is the only accredited package offering a full range of financials and we believe that this will provide us with a significant "point of difference", enabling schools to take full advantage of the efficiencies only offered by a fully integrated solution.

The road to Accreditation in New Zealand has cer-



tainly impacted on our current user base. When we embarked on this process we were unaware of the impact that it would have. Time lines associated with the process have meant that we have had to juggle priorities along the way. *Continued Page 4*

**"The company has excellent policies and protocols, adopts a very robust and businesslike approach, and is very knowledgeable and experienced in this field." (Paul Seiler Project Manager Student Management Systems NZ Ministry of Education)**

## PCSchool 2005 Financial Conference

The 2005 PCSchool Financial Conference is fast approaching. In October 2005 we will be holding our annual conference in Melbourne. The theme for this years conference is "Working Smarter" To ensure your place at our conference register your interest by email [susan@pcschool.net](mailto:susan@pcschool.net) The program for the conference is available on our Web site (see [Conferences](#)).

The conference enables users and the PCSchool staff to come together to ensure that the future direction of PCSchool is in accord with your requirements. It is an opportunity for you to meet with your peers with a view to maximizing the efficiency of your school's administration. The theme will focus on the value of a central data-

base to the total functionality of the school.

Our key note speaker at the conference, Mr Paul Seiller, from the Ministry of Education in New Zealand, will address the topic "In search of excellence in School Administration" I am sure that this will be an enlightening and thought provoking address based on the experiences of the New Zealand Ministry of Education in their evaluation of Administration systems over the past three years.

This year at the conference we will introduce some optional work shop sessions. These will have a specific training focus and we look forward to your suggestions as to the topics to be in-

cluded.

We also intend to include "Drive In" sessions. These will be a free form forum hosted by one of the PCSchool staff and will run in conjunction with the work shops. Attendees are at liberty to float in and out of these sessions to raise any issues they may have. The content of the session will be initiated by the attendees and will enable users to raise specific issues associated with their usage of PCSchool.

The conference will see the launch of several new initiatives within the software including Point of Sale, SQL and Bulk email.



**Financials**

We will also introduce our new "Early Notification" attendance register. The latter is a significant enhancement to our current attendance module and incorporates state of the art voice, SMS or email notification to parents in the event of a child's absence.

Past conferences have been great successes and we trust that the 2005 Melbourne conference will be better than ever. PCSchool values your input and I would encourage you to attend.

For registration form see page 5

[Link to conference program](#)

## PCSchool Meeting MCEETYA Requirements

Link to [MCEETYA Requirements documentation](#)

Link to [MCEETYA Reporting documentation](#)

PCSchool has completed its implementation of the Australian MCEETYA standards.

The documentation avail-

able from the links above will provide detailed instruction as to how to enter the data in preparation for the MCEETYA reporting. The software will perform some validations on the data as part of the preparation process.

It is recommended that you do a trial run to prepare the data well in advance of the required date. This will

ensure that any anomalies in the data will be identified and corrected.

The initial data entry to bring the records up to date will be significant, however future data will be collected as part of the normal enrolment cycle ensuring that meeting the MCEETYA requirements in the future will not be a burden.

***New Tech Tips***

- [MCEETYA Requirements](#)
- [MCEETYA Reporting](#)
- [Merits and DeMerits](#)
- [PCS Brochures](#)

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## PCS Help Now Available

The [PCSchool 2004 Help](#) file has been updated and is now available for download from the Web site.

This file is a completely revised version of the Help and includes all new features of the software. We are grateful to Sharyn and Donna for their contributions to this enormous document and would recommend to all users to download it and have a peruse. I am sure that you will find it very thorough. Should you have any suggestions or comments re

the Help please reference these to Donna at [support@donegal.net.au](mailto:support@donegal.net.au)

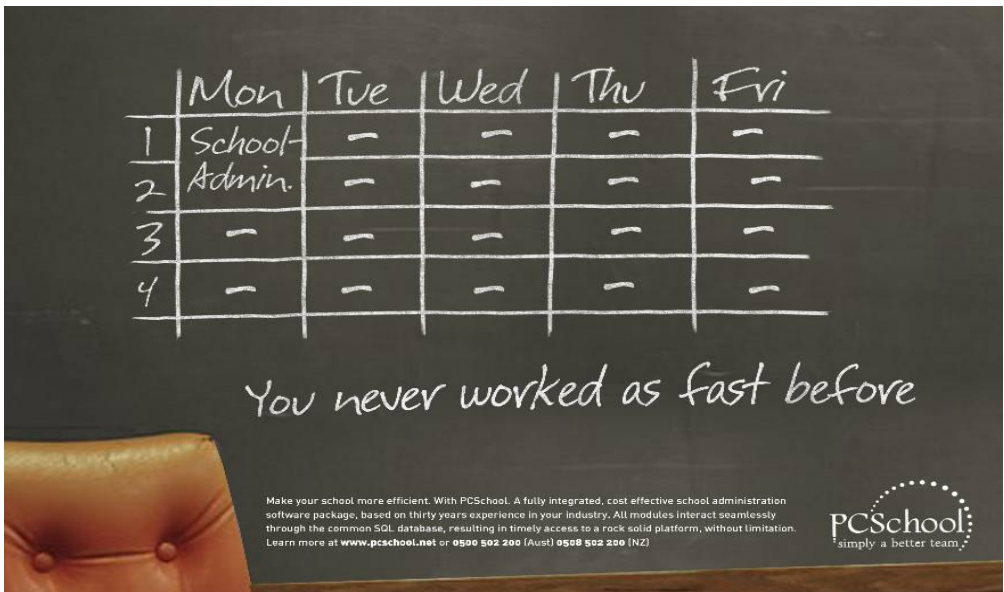
**PCSchool has recently expanded.** Since obtaining "Accreditation" we have formalized our New Zealand Distributor, Ernst Klein of "Superb Software", phone 094482624. Ernst has been representing PCSchool in this market place for some time and has attended our conferences since 2003. He is very excited about the product and its potential.

In light of the increased demand for the software **PCSchool has expanded its support staff.** We would like to welcome Veronica Puriri who has joined our New Zealand team as a training and support officer. We are confident that, with the structure we have developed in New Zealand and with the quality of those representing us there, the demands associated with the growth in that market will not impact negatively on the high levels of support cur-

rently available.

The Help Desk in Australia will continue to support both local and New Zealand sites. We have recently employed Chris Simpson who has a strong financial background, whom I am sure will add depth to the support desk.

Both ladies are currently under-going intensive training in Australia. I welcome them to the team and trust they have a long and happy association with PCSchool.



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## Improved eMerge Facility

The improved eMerge Facility is now available. The new and improved eMerge now incorporates Bulk output functions, including email.

We have incorporated the eMerge facility into the Foundation Module enabling users to prepare mail merge templates and have these populated based on selections made within the program. These merged letters

can then be either printed or emailed, or a combination of both. (recipients with email addresses will receive email, others will receive a printed copy)

The eMerge has also been incorporated into the **Library Overdue reports** enabling automated email to Library patrons.

The technologies that we have employed in the devel-

opment of this control will enable users to utilize bulk email as a primary means of communication significantly reducing the cost of communication and completely automating the process.

In future revisions of the software you will see more use of this tool across all areas of the package.

# Impact of Accreditation

The accreditation has seen SQL and Point of Sale take a back seat to other initiatives.

In the initial round of Accreditation PCSchool failed to meet standards associated with NZ Curriculum and Attendance. While some of the reasons associated with the "failure" related to our underestimating the requirements of that market, the end result was that we took a fresh look at these areas of the program. I believe that



ess significantly enhancing the flexibility and capability of PCSchool.

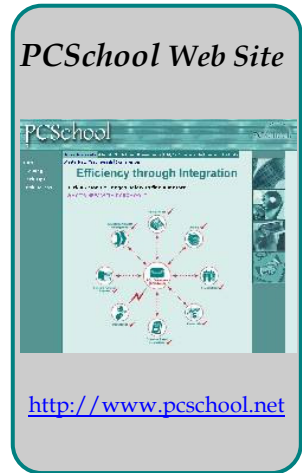
New initiatives associated with Attendance and Early Notification of Absence are a result



of the Accreditation framework. These provide PCSchool with an attendance system that is state of the art and a significant enhancement to this module. These changes will be released at the September conference and I trust that

benefited from the software changes associated with Accreditation.

The business standards imposed by the Ministry related to Quality Control, Programming Methodology, Support Services and Future readiness. These were extensive and far reaching and required that as a business we take a step-back and review our processes and procedures. We saw this as a very positive initiative enabling us to put such procedures in place to ensure that as a company we were capa-

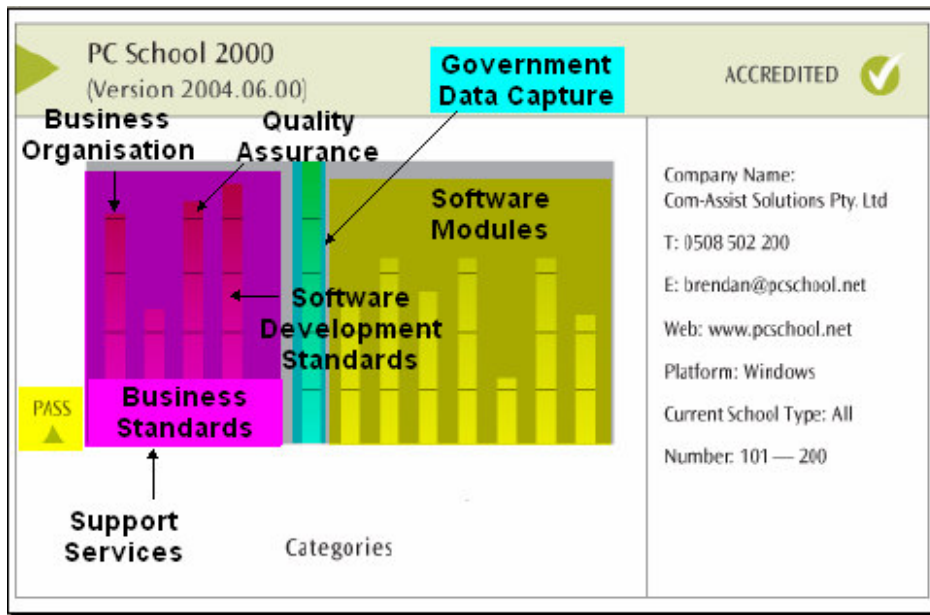


software product I am sure that you will be assured by the Ministry's assessment of our capability in this area. As a result we are a better business, more capable of accepting the challenges ahead.

We were not alone in our quest for accreditation, however have been buoyed by the results. Other Australian companies, with similar offering as PCSchool, such as "Quad" and "Synergetic" also sought accreditation however were unsuccessful.

In the competitive environment in which we find our product we are elated by the results of this independent review indicating that we are definitely on the right track.

You will be pleased to know that our priorities have now refocused on SQL and POS and we trust that these will be released formally at the October conference.



the "NEW CURRICULUM" is a giant step forward as indicated by its broad acceptance by the PCSchool community.

The "WEB SPIDER" is another initiative of this proc-

you will be as excited about its potential as we are. These changes will come to current users within the standard maintenance arrangements.

Not only has PCSchool

ble of producing a consistent quality product, and that we were using best practice in both our programming and in our dealings with our customers. While the implementations associated with this are not directly evident within the

Full Accreditation Results—Follow link below.

[http://www.minedu.govt.nz/web/downloadable/dl10428\\_v1/33708-accreditation-bro---final.pdf](http://www.minedu.govt.nz/web/downloadable/dl10428_v1/33708-accreditation-bro---final.pdf)

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# Conference Registration Form

## 2005 PCSchool Financial Conference

30th September & 1st October 2005

Location: Novotel Melbourne on Collins (Aus)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Dinner Attendance

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Attendees

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Dinner Attendance

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Dinner Attendance

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Dinner Attendance

Please advise if additional dinner is required for a Partner costing \$60

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions for Breakout & Training Sessions

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to [susan@pcschool.net](mailto:susan@pcschool.net) or fax to (07) 4939 3315 Attention Susan

### Accommodation Details:

\$178 Twin share exclude breakfast

\$202 Twin share including breakfast

All booking and questions about accommodation please deal directly with the Novotel Melbourne on Collins (03) 9667 5800.