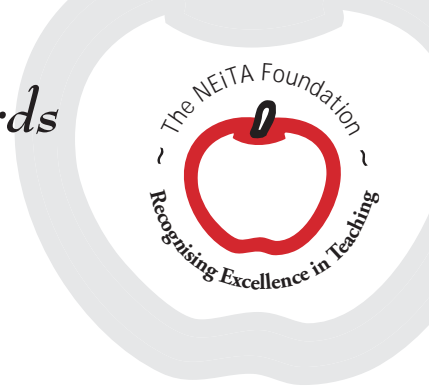


# 2007 National Excellence In Teaching Awards

## State and Territory Teaching Excellence Award Recipient



## David Kennedy

Bachelor of Arts, Diploma of Education  
Mater Maria Catholic College, Warriewood, New South Wales  
Nominated by: Student Council, school parents

*Position: Industrial Technology Electronics Teacher • Level taught: Secondary School HSC • School type: Catholic Systemic • Town: Warriewood • Category: Secondary • State: NSW*

### *Creating a centre of excellence in the field of electronics*

David Kennedy inspires and excites his electronics students at Mater Maria Catholic College. With many students displaying depressive symptoms and unable to flourish in the more strictly academic subjects, David's classroom provides a positive, enjoyable environment where students experience success in completing real-life electronics projects. The resulting rise in self-esteem often translates positively into the students' other academic work.

David has created a centre of excellence in the field of electronics at Mater Maria. In 2004, his students received the best result for a NSW HSC class across all subjects and at all levels, and were one of the highest scoring classes in the state. This achievement was repeated in 2006.

David displays great patience, kindness, and devotion to his students, as demonstrated by one student's feedback, "The way Mr Kennedy teaches and makes you laugh at his jokes is something you can't learn at any school". Luckily for his students, David's classes are one place where his students can learn and laugh simultaneously.

## *Insight*

*Q: In your opinion what makes a good teacher?*

*A: The best teachers are passionate about their work and are extremely tolerant and understanding of their students' situations and behaviours. They inspire, lead and control students. They have a gift.*

*Q: How do you maintain your enthusiasm for teaching?*

*A: I am results-driven. This means each student should leave my class with good skills, high self-esteem, a sense of achievement, an awareness of their spirit, and a practical relationship with God.*

*Q: In hindsight, what do you wish your training provided you with more of?*

*A: Even today, I need more student counselling skills, an increased knowledge of learning difficulties, and information skills training, but ironically I'm too busy teaching to learn.*

*Q: How has teaching changed over the years?*

*A: In a way, teaching has not changed. Teacher and student interactions are still the key and they will always be. Technology, resources, paperwork etc. are mere additions.*

*Q: What is the single most important thing you, as a teacher, can do to connect with individual students?*

*A: Talk to each student about as many subjects as you can without any reference to anything remotely associated with school.*

*Q: If you were the Minister for Education, Science and Training for a week, what would you try to do?*

*A: I would focus on funding education properly and eliminating HECS for the underprivileged.*

*Q: What keeps you awake at night?*

*A: Nothing.*

*Q: If your students could describe you in three words, what would they say?*

*A: Weird, different and talented.*

**Contact Details:** Principal: Ray Werren  
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