

## Patterson Lakes Primary School revolutionises the student learning experience with Hitachi interactive technologies

Established in 1979, [Patterson Lakes Primary School](#) is located in the residential corridor between the Frankston Freeway and Port Phillip Bay, 33km SSE of the Melbourne CBD in Victoria. Its increasing enrolment of 675 students participate in a comprehensive curriculum that allows them to be actively involved in their learning, enhancing knowledge and skills acquisition and retention, and promoting positive attitudes and values.

Patterson Lakes Primary School is considered to be a school of choice in the region for a variety of reasons, the main one being its technological advances and the manner in which it uses interactive technologies in the school.

Patterson Lakes was looking to utilise its technology to change the way that its teachers taught and to make the classroom a more fun and engaging environment for its students.



Hitachi Australia helped to make this vision a reality by deploying a number of interactive whiteboards and its Verdict Plus Response System in the classrooms, bringing significant benefits to the learning and teaching process. Monique Corcoran is the Curriculum and Innovations Coordinator at Patterson Lakes Primary School. When Monique first arrived at the school she felt that there was a need to introduce a more motivational and engaging way of learning for the students.

“Five years ago when I arrived at Patterson Lakes Primary School, we did have a challenge, “ said Monique. “We initially had three Hitachi interactive whiteboards and data projectors within the stereotyped areas of the school, such as the conference room, staff room and computer lab.

My challenge was to change the way that my teachers taught and to be more motivating and excited to be in the classroom environment.



“With that, we wanted to introduce these interactive technologies throughout the school, so that our students were more engaged and wanting to be in the classrooms. In three years I wanted to ensure that every single classroom had the forefront of technologies and be teaching and learning in an exciting new generational manner,” added Monique.

In order to meet the school’s three year plan, Patterson Lakes has now installed over 30 Hitachi Starboards and ultra short throw data projectors.

[Hitachi Starboards](#) are an innovation within the modern day classroom. Through the use of interactive whiteboard technology, learning experiences are now more fun, fulfilling and engaging with a diverse range of downloadable interactive whiteboard lessons. Up to three people can write on the whiteboard at once, which is ideal for collaborative group work.

Developed for learning environments and for use in conjunction with the Hitachi Starboard, Hitachi's [ultra short throw projectors](#) can project a sharp 80 inch image from as little as 56cm from the screen.



This is perfect for classrooms or meeting rooms with limited space, greatly reduces eye glare for the teacher from the projector's light source and also provides the students with a clearer view as the teacher's hands and body shadows are minimised.

More recently Patterson Lakes Primary School has introduced the Hitachi Verdict Plus Interactive Response System in its classrooms. "These are small individual handheld devices where the children can immediately vote and respond to the teaching and learning environment," said Monique. "This encourages whole classroom participation and enables us to immediately test or gauge a classroom response to questions using a wide variety of formats." With Hitachi's Interactive Response System, the teachers can choose to make answers anonymous, or enable students to see how well they are doing in response to others. Answers can then be transferred, collected and analysed for further reference.

Patterson Lakes Primary School has also introduced an interactive projector enabling it to turn virtually any wall into an optimum interactive surface, furthering the learning experience. "The introduction of these Hitachi technologies has been a seamless process, because we wanted to ensure that we provided the professional learning and support to our staff during the rollout," says Corcoran.

"A fundamental part of the vision was the opening of the school's multimedia centre. In this centre there is a vast array of technologies at our fingertips, ranging from the school radio station, green screen technology, tablet and notebook devices, and also two VerTables. The VerTables, using Hitachi interactive projectors, provide an opportunity for students to collaborate on a horizontal or vertical plane."



There were a number of components that Monique Corcoran wished to focus on when deciding on a partner. "The first was Hitachi's expertise," explains Monique. "It was evident from the offset that they knew their product and they knew how to share that vision and expertise with their clients."

"The second was in regards to the quality of their products. There were numerous interactive technologies on the market and we wanted to ensure that we had a product that could stand the test of time. We work with young children, so it needed to last."

“The third and final component was Hitachi’s people skills. From the moment we met the first person through to who we currently work with on technical support and product advisors, we know that we have got the right product.”

There are a number of benefits that the Hitachi products have brought to Patterson Lakes Primary School. “Some of these benefits are related to the engagement of the students in the classroom,” said Monique. “It is indisputable that a classroom with an interactive whiteboard is far more engaging than a classroom without.”



“Another advantage is the ownership within the classroom. The teacher is now a facilitator of learning and the student has more ownership within the learning experience. From a school perspective we are far more conscious and progressive in meeting the educational needs of our students.”

The next phase that Patterson Lakes Primary School is embarking on is in regards to strengthening student voice and personalised learning. According to Monique, the Hitachi Interactive Response System does so naturally and provides real time feedback for teachers to ensure that what they have taught, the students have understood:

“My ultimate dream is to work within a school where interactive technologies are maximised in a purposeful and authentic manner; enabling students to think more widely and globally, in preparing them to be lifelong technological learners. In terms of our future plans, I hope that our partnership with Hitachi will enable Patterson Lakes Primary School to realise my wish list of what an ideal interactive school could look like”. This includes:

- Elicit the philosophy that the interactive whiteboard is more a learning tool than a teaching tool. Empower students to move more towards the interactive equipment and use as a natural resource; subsequently for teachers to move away from the interactive tools, minimising tokenism of the interactive tools;
- Enlist the power of the collective! Teachers need to maximise more on the enthusiasm and experience of students and expertise of staff, to further interactive integration;
- Be more flexible towards learning, for example, technological learning stations and developmental exploration spaces are built in more within the teaching and learning environment;
- Foster collaboration with all interactive tools i.e. not merely a one to one tool but a many to many tool. We want to further explore the possibility of Hitachi SRS-within every classroom, where learning is more participatory and students can provide immediate insight and feedback directly related to their own learning;
- Ensure every available learning space in the school environment is interactive, including all specialists areas.



“On a personal note, I was always confident in the decision we made to go with Hitachi, but I could never have imagined the huge benefits that our school has gained and I look forward to our partnership continuing long into the future.”

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