

# Hervey Bay State High School

## Supporting the digital educational paradigm



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Sarah Brierley  
Head of Department - ICT/Business  
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For the 820 students attending Queensland's Hervey Bay State High School, educational opportunities available to them are in certain cases beyond those offered even by many private schools. Along with the full traditional range of subjects, the School offers: Agricultural Science, Marine Studies and even first year university subjects through its partnership with the University of Southern Queensland.

It is, in fact, a government school that consistently demonstrates a commitment to affording students the best possible – and most relevant – secondary education experience. Playing a part in that is the introduction of digital media by virtue of the Epson PP-100 Discproducer.

## The transition to digital duplication

With the close of the school year looming, the School sought a solution that would enable it to make the transition from hard copy printed materials, such as enrolment packages and course materials, to a more effective DVD-based model.

According to the School's Head of Department – ICT/Business, Sarah Brierley, while there was ready acceptance within the School's community for such a transition, the initial challenge was to identify an in-house rather than outsourced solution. "Among the key things we were looking at from a purely business perspective," she says, "were reducing costs and eliminating the need to fit in with an external provider's production schedule.

"We wanted to be able to duplicate and surface-print only the precise number of discs we needed, and importantly, have the ability to produce them easily, professionally, and as and when required."

## The Epson PP-100 Discproducer

In searching the market for the most suitable solution, Sarah discovered quickly that it was a market well populated with a wide variety of products from all too many unfamiliar companies. "Along with everything else, I was looking for a solution from a company that had a proven track record in product reliability, quality and support," she states.

Ultimately, and after her own independent research, Sarah approached the School's IT services partner, and the recommendation they gave her matched precisely the results of her own research.

"The Epson Discproducer PP-100 emerged as a clear winner," she says. "It was already being adopted by a lot of other schools, it had all the features and benefits – plus many others – I was looking for and it was an Epson product."

## Ease-of-use and cost-effective

With the arrival of the PP-100 Discproducer, Sarah discovered one of the most valuable benefits of the unit – absolute ease-of-use. "The installation was just as straightforward as it is for a desktop printer," she says. "It was a straightforward matter of connecting the unit to a Windows PC with a USB cable, installing the software, and that was it!"

Once installed, Sarah and the School's IT Technician then put the PP-100 Discproducer through its paces, using the bundled Epson Total Disc Maker software.

The software, which is designed to afford users an almost commercial-level total disc duplication and surface-printing environment, streamlines the entire process by wrapping an otherwise complex and error-prone series of operations into a three-step workflow – data selection, label design/selection and production configuration.

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## The IT-centric education paradigm

The reality of today's education environment is that in line with becoming increasingly IT-centric, students are being forced to deal with and manage an amount of learning materials that in their parents' days at school would have been unimaginable.

Here, according to Sarah, is where the Discproducer is set to deliver major benefits to the School's students and support improved learning outcomes; and it starts with the teachers.

Where it used to be the case of teachers obtaining materials and either printing or photocopying it for distribution to students, the sheer amount of materials and time required are making that practice almost untenable for most teachers.

With the Discproducer's rapid production capabilities now available to them, teachers and course co-ordinators at Hervey Bay have a dramatically greater degree of freedom in being able to source learning materials and distributing them to their students.

Materials sourced from the Web can be saved either as content direct to an on-line folder, or embedded as a link in a document. Articles and papers can be scanned once and also saved to the folder, along with an almost unlimited range of other digital-based resources.



“ Importantly, by being able to leave duplication right up until the time its needed, rather than having the lead time required of printers, if changes occur – as they so often do – then they can be done at the last moment and not cause any wastage. ”

Once stored in the folder, it's then a straightforward matter for School's Technology Department personnel to initiate a Discproducer session for anywhere up to 100 copies.

In commenting on the time savings alone, Sarah says: "Even with a high quality printer or photocopier, the amount of time the teacher would have to spend in preparing the amount of material that can be stored on a DVD would be such as to make the exercise virtually impractical. With the Discproducer, that entire manual reproduction part of the process is eliminated.

"In addition to that, if students lose copies of the DVD, all that's required is to hand them a duplicate, and if one isn't available, it can be created in a matter of minutes due to the fact that for each disc we produce, the entire project – data and disc label – is stored on-line."

For the student, what it boils down to is having a more easily searchable and manageable learning materials resource. Instead of being forced to wade through a seemingly endless portfolio of printed documents, it's precisely where it should be in today's age of information overload – right at their fingertips.

### **Avoiding the "economies of scale" requirement**

On the issue of cost-effectiveness, the Discproducer-enabled digital duplication solution has given Hervey Bay the means to reduce instances of having to hard print large quantities in order to achieve the economies of scale that goes hand-in-hand with commercial printing.

School enrolment packages, promotional materials and other documents that would otherwise be cost-prohibitive to have printed commercially in small numbers are now being distributed on DVDs; and in the precise quantity required.

"If we need 95 packages, then that's all we need to produce," Sarah says. "Importantly, by being able to leave duplication right up until the time its needed, rather than having the lead time required of printers, if changes occur – as they so often do – then they can be done at the last moment and not cause any wastage.

"When you look at it, much of what we're doing is being done in the world of business," Sarah continues. "And it's important for the education market to look at what's being done there by way of distributing information, saving costs and time, and reducing carbon footprint, and adopt them wherever possible. This is precisely what the Epson Discproducer PP-100 is enabling us to do."

For more information on Epson Disk Publishers please call 1300 655 723 or visit [www.epson.com.au](http://www.epson.com.au)



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