

Reporter Pro

Student Assessment & Reporting Software

2009



Expanding student reporting options

Real-life stories from schools moving forward

Marian College

● Could Reporter Pro meet new Teacher/Student Interview requirements?

The Challenge

Marian College, a Catholic secondary college in Ararat, Victoria, was ready to take a big leap forward in providing reports and guidance on the progress of its 484 students to their parents.

Not content with providing just end-of-term reports, Marian College wanted to report student progress on a five-week rolling cycle. But the administrative demands would be a nightmare; how could the school make it work?

The Background

Marian College was an early adopter of Reporter Pro, the student reporting package of Human Edge's market-leading school management software suite. When Reporter Pro came on to the market four years ago, Marian College quickly added it to its existing Human Edge packages SAS2000 and First Class timetabling.

Deputy Principal Matthew Summers said the reporting package they had at the time was no longer well supported. "It was falling apart, so we had to make a change," he said. "VELS (Victorian Essential Learning Standards) was just coming in so it was a good time to do a big swap."

Marian College also later added the A+ roll marking module, giving it the full suite of integrated school management software.

The college's early adoption of Reporter Pro gave Summers the opportunity to provide significant input into the ongoing development of the software. It also made him an expert user. "I enjoyed collaborating with Human Edge," Summers said. "We got a lot of benefits out of it in little tweaks here and there for what we required and we helped out by testing some major



Marian College deputy principals Darren Hovey (left) and Matthew Summers studied school reporting methods in Canada for ways to improve their school's student reports.

problems. It built a very strong relationship with the software and the company."

Reporter Pro is the teaching staff's primary administrative software, used every day to record and monitor student progress. With previous experiences still in mind, Summers felt the main benefit of Reporter Pro was its stability and reliability. "Staff are confident that, day to day, Reporter Pro will still be the same," he said.

Easy to read and navigate

Summers said teachers also enjoyed Reporter Pro's easy visuals, organisation and navigation. "It's easy to read, easy to navigate and it's quite quick. You don't have to continually open another box and another box to get where you want. It's a couple of clicks and you are there."

"After I had a look at Reporter Pro and saw what it could do and then realised that we were already connected to Human Edge by having SAS2000 and First Class, we knew we wanted Reporter Pro because of its features and its integration of databases with the other modules."

Matthew Summers,
Deputy Principal
Marian College, Victoria



After some initial scepticism about having to learn another new software program, Summers said staff quickly settled in to using Reporter Pro. "Once we had gone through and reported for one semester they realised it was not that hard at all," he said. "Once they got used to drop-down boxes and the way you navigate through the program, it wasn't a problem."

Web access a real productivity boost

Summers said teachers were keen users of Reporter Pro's web capabilities. "We went for the web access immediately," he said. "Staff can access and use Reporter Pro any day of the week, any time of the day and from any place, which has been a real productivity boost."



Marian College deputy principals Darren Hovey (left) and Matthew Summers examine some report outputs from Reporter Pro

Could Reporter Pro meet Marian College's new needs?

Marian College wanted to improve the quality of information and frequency of communication on students' progress between the school and parents. Based on research into what schools in Canada were doing, it introduced a system it called TSI — Teacher-Student Interviews.

Under TSI on a five-week rolling cycle, every student in the school is formally interviewed, progress assessed, and new goals and tasks set, with written reports going home to parents. Parents comment on the report and return it to the college. The college has also retained its formal end-of-semester reports, which are managed in the main part of Reporter Pro. With some assistance from Human Edge, Marian College adapted the package's interim reporting section to manage TSI.

Summers said: "We started three years ago with a trial using an Excel spreadsheet, but that was not satisfactory. We did a half school trial last year, where we introduced the interim reporting aspect to Reporter Pro. This year it is in full operation for

the first time, and it basically relies on the technology. If Reporter Pro couldn't do it, we couldn't do the program." The introduction of TSI blended smoothly into Reporter Pro. "The TSI system hasn't caused any great changes in the software to unsettle staff," Summers said. "Teachers know exactly where they're going; it's simply an extension of what we were already doing."

Sensational service and support

The college's heavy reliance on Reporter Pro from the moment the new school year begins means that any problems in its software suite need to be fixed immediately. Summers described Human Edge's service and support as "sensational".

"We're like any other customer, we log in through the website and leave our question," he said. "We get the automatically generated response and then 99 times out of 100 we will get a phone call before the end of that working day. If the problem can't be solved then and there, Human Edge works extremely hard to get it fixed as soon as possible."

