TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

**VICTORIA**
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

# Fostering a community of academics interested in teaching technologies and research

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# VUW's Teaching & Learning Goals

**Students**

**Practice**

**Strategy**

Fostering reflective practice

Sharing best practice

Building capacity and capability

Stimulating innovation

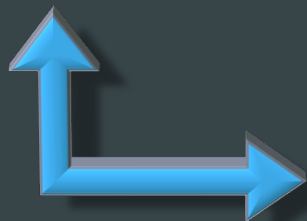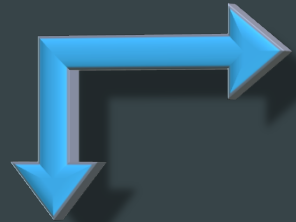Supporting technology platform and roadmap

Re-imagining face -2- face

Developing digital literacies

**Staff**

# Building a Community of Reflective Practice across VUW's Dispersed Faculties, Disciplines & Campuses

# What initially attracted you to the seminar series*?
## (and what is your discipline?)

Art History

Psychology

Biology

Information Management

Education

Chemistry

Library

ITS

Religious Studies

Law

Geography

Philosophy

Classics

Linguistics

Commerce

Centre for Academic Development

**The group developed ideas**

**that turned into seminars**



Providing Social Support

• Helping students run the rapids of their lives
  ‣ Advising/counseling
  ‣ Peer support/mentoring
  ‣ Cohort programs/learning communities





Lizzie_Towl Listening to @lorenagibson present on using twitter in the classroom at #VUWteach. Possible cultural issue with NZ students and twitter?

rhiansalmon @lorenagibson talking about how she uses twitter in the classroom #VUWteach uses twitter to find up to date readings for class

rhiansalmon #Vuwteach blogs produce ongoing student generated feedback - not to be underestimated - but also high expectations for fast feedback

**which explored**

Large group teaching
Using video in teaching
Ideas Exchange
The Flipped Classroom
Social Media
Lab Crawl
Online Courses
LMS

**and extended our capability, confidence, and creativity.**

# The most useful aspect of the seminar series?

people have an opportunity to talk about teaching practices that they are really enthusiastic about. we don't often get to talk about practice.

meeting people who work in this area

Confidence to try new things after hearing how they work for other people.

"learning about using technology in different ways - even if I don't 'copy' it exactly, it makes me think more creatively about what I do and could do"

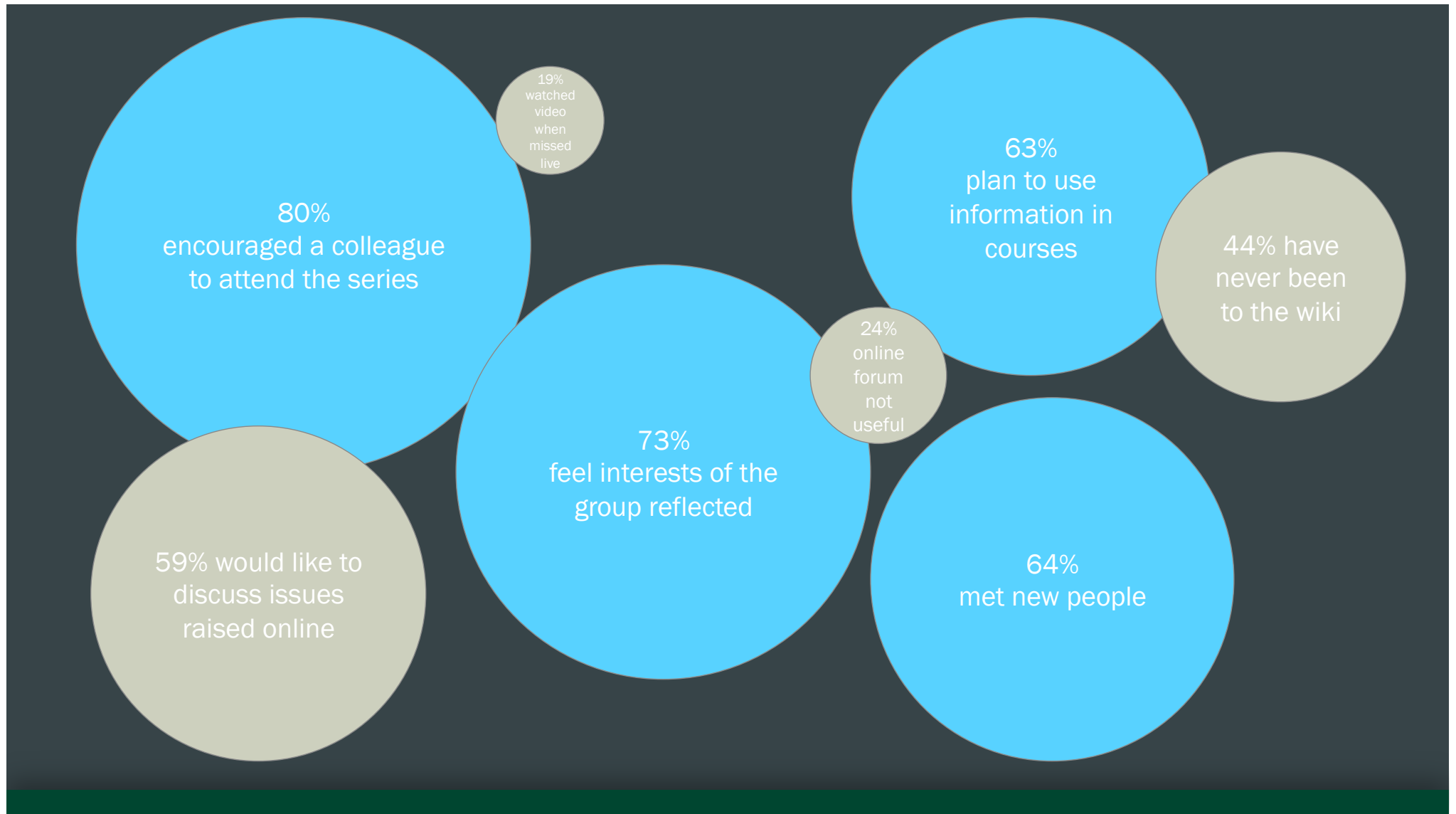Networking with people with similar issues in their courses.

I never realised there were so many distance education groups operating out of vic uni

gained new tools. Challenged to try new techniques

Exposure to a wide range of practical ways of using available learning and teaching tools

"I have found the most useful aspect has been the range of topics and locations of the seminars. I think getting to actually see the people who teach the courses, see the technology in use and see people from ITS/ Image Services completes the picture of interested academics and interested professional staff who can make things happen. I see being part of this group/community provides the opportunity to get to know other people across the university who are making things happen and also generate new ideas for my own teaching."

thinking about teaching!

# How is it different from other seminars?

*Opportunity to meet with people interested in teaching from other schools and faculties on a reasonably informal a basis to explore what we do and why and how we can do it better.*
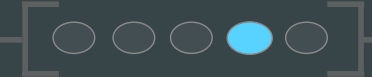
*Cross-faculty fertilisation of ideas.*

*organised, facilitated and chaired by the academics who lead technology enabled learning at Victoria. All these staff are taking time out from extremely busy schedules to commit to this series, which really shows the value.*

*Academics across the university coming together to share practice examples*

*A University wide perspective on teaching and learning. Access to enthusiastic knowledgable people from outside my faculty talking on L&T.*

# What worked?

Exposure to new ideas, practices, and collaborations

Establishing community

*collegiality, openness, relaxed nature, quality time spent with quality colleagues*
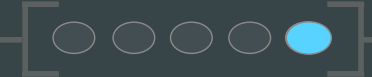
Regular monthly meeting time

*during the demonstration of touch screens in a biological science lab, a philosopher planned an interactive critical thinking lecture and an information management lecturer discussed student data visualization if they had the same technology.*

Interdisciplinarity

**Demonstrating how much digital learning is going on at VUW**

*I like its amateur aspect -- in the positive sense of the word. It's not dogmatic or policy-driven..*

Led by teaching staff engaged in technology-enabled learning

# Room for Improvement

*Some sessions became too specific*

Breadth vs detail

Difficulty finding a good time

*More time for discussion*

More profiles from different campuses and disciplines

Discussion forum not used well

*[finding] time is always a problem*

More opportunities for visiting speakers

# Enabling Our Digital Vision for VUW

The Learning & Teaching Seminar Series
- has catalysed a community of staff interested in new technologies in learning and teaching
- helps to realise the goals of the Univiersity's new Digital Vision Strategy
- profiles staff across academic disciplines, ITS, library...
- is ever-evolving and experimental
- is fun!

The future is bright! We hope to
- establish new communities of practice in specific areas of teaching and learning
- invite more external speakers
- evaluate every six months
- continue the series!

#VUWTeach

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