PD for VET teachers by VET teachers: An evaluation

Jo Balatti James Cook University
Martha Goldman Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE
Phil Harrison Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE
Bob Elliott Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE
Meredith Jackson Wide Bay Institute of TAFE
Gillian Smith Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE

What is TROPIC?

Teachers Reflecting On Practice In Contexts

Purpose:
To support teachers to implement effective strategies for positive teacher-learner interactions and to continuously improve teaching practice through sharing and reflection.

Components of TROPIC

Principles of TROPIC
- Voluntary
- Confidential
- Nonjudgmental
- By teachers for teachers

Elements of TROPIC
- PD in effective teaching strategies
- PD in mentoring/coaching
- Peer observations of teaching practice and feedback
- Professional conversations

Logistics of action research approach
- Three institute based teams with members of each team comprising a fourth inter-institutional team
- Duration: approx 15 months
- Monthly teleconferences, wiki, presentations & workshops
- External researcher
  http://tropic.wikispaces.com/

What happened?
- Extent to which TROPIC “took root” in each institute varied
- TROPIC embedded itself in each organisation differently
- TROPIC evolved in each institute differently
- Common challenge: The mentoring aspect

Why did this happen?
- Organisational structure
- Subcultures
- Capacity to implement innovation
Is the TROPIC model of PD worth pursuing?

Yes providing ........