

The more schools put in the more they'll get out

OERNZ is a rich resource that can only get better, believes Jacqui Land, Assistant Principal and Project Director for ICT PD at Papanui High School.

WHAT'S YOUR REACTION TO THE OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCE PORTAL FOR NEW ZEALAND SCHOOLS BEING SET UP?

I think it is wonderful. I have often wondered why many schools work in isolation and are all producing the same material on the same topics.

WHY SHOULD SCHOOLS GET INVOLVED?

Schools should get involved because it is a rich resource that can only get better. It does, however, rely on the community's involvement and input. The more schools put in the more they will get out, especially with the introduction of the New Curriculum, the Alignment and National Standards. Why not all work together to produce a rich array of resources that can benefit the whole community?

HOW ARE YOU USING WIKIEDUCATOR AND OERNZ?

As a school, we're at the very early stages of our use of WikiEducator and OERNZ. At present we're setting up our school Moodle site and are looking at how we can integrate that with WikiEducator. We're hoping to have a SSO solution that will allow teachers to access WikiEducator from within Moodle. Our plan will then be to use WikiEducator and Moodle together to produce schemes of work, resources and on-line text books.

HOW DID YOU FIND THE SET UP PROCESS?

The set up process was incredibly easy and straightforward. The training sessions and help that are available online are of an extremely high quality and really helpful. There is also a lot of support already available from within the community.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED SO FAR?

That there are increasing numbers of teachers who are willing to share resources and ideas. And that the WikiEducator community is extremely open and welcoming.

WHAT'S BEEN THE REACTION FROM STAFF TO USING OERNZ?

We haven't rolled it out to everyone. We're going to do that in Term 3. Those that have used it like it and think it has potential.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE OERNZ DEVELOP?

It would be good to see it be integrated into Moodle, so that material can flow easily from one to the other. I think the two support each other well. The editor has been a fantastic addition; other things like this which make it easy for staff to use would be good to incorporate. The more barriers that are removed the bigger the uptake would be. It would also be good to see some templates made available for the different subjects, key competencies and values to help reduce work load.



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PAPANUI'S PORTAL PAGE
[HTTP://WIKIEDUCATOR.ORG/PAPANUI_HIGH_SCHOOL](http://wikieducator.org/papanui_high_school)

New function converts documents to wikitext

Using WikiEducator has gotten a lot easier with the launch of OOoConverter, an experimental document conversion service. The new function – which can be found in your toolbox on the left hand side of the screen – enables the conversion of MS Word, and Open Office documents into wiki text.

"This bit of magic and inspiration was developed by Piers Harding from Catalyst with funding support from the Ministry of Education," explained Dr Wayne Mackintosh. "Think of this service as a way to kick start your pages in WikiEducator. The conversion service does a good job of basic text formatting, simple tables and headings, although it will not upload images to the server but will include the syntax. It will save the page as a subpage of your user-page, which you can then move to where you want in the wiki. Plus, if you have enabled your email, WikiEducator will automatically let you know when your document's been converted."

<http://wikieducator.org/Special:OOoConverter>

Free online workshops a success

Thanks to everyone who participated in the third and fourth OERNZ Online Workshops. Your enthusiasm and dedication were fantastic – these were a great success! The free two-week training courses covered a range of the knowledge and skills required to use WikiEducator to author resources that other teachers can share. If you're interested in learning more about WikiEducator, we will be running more free workshops soon – watch this space for details!

<http://wikieducator.org/OERNZ/training>

38 NZ portals and rising

Welcome to all the schools and organisations that have recently started sites. There are now 38 portals on OERNZ. Isn't that great. Let's get collaborating! Among the new arrivals is the Southern Central Divide Cluster (SCD), a fantastic project between the Aorakinet, Cantatech and WestNet eLearning clusters. We hope that OERNZ can do its bit to help with collaborative, personalised learning across cluster schools

<http://wikieducator.org/SCD>

Project Tackles NZ history

Interested in New Zealand history? Check out 'New Zealand's Search For Security 1945-1985', a collaborative textbook for this Level 1 NCEA history course.

It's been started by Albany Senior High School, who are "writing the textbook for this topic as we learn it, and we'd like other schools to become involved too. If you're studying Level 1 history, create an account and add your knowledge to our textbook. The topic takes us from the end of World War II through to the bombing of the Rainbow Warrior."

<http://wikieducator.org/History>



Seeding the creation of OER exemplars

Are you developing teaching materials we can share, adapt and modify for use in our classrooms as part of our national OERNZ project? Or do you know of anyone who is?

We're looking for reusable and portable content and to seed their development we're offering small payments to help us get started.

"I envisage this initiative as being a catalyst to get things started and for New Zealand's best educators to help seed our national repository," explained Dr Wayne Mackintosh. "Remember that we already provide free training for all New Zealand teachers in how to develop OER the wiki way to ensure that all educators have an equal chance in becoming part of our open education family. These honoraria could potentially compensate for a little release time to work on a shareable teaching resource, or to cover costs of authors from different schools to come together."

The OERNZ planning team have discussed and proposed guidelines for determining the scope of this project as well as listing ideas for the types of resources they would like to develop.

To find out more and to submit a proposal online go to:

<http://wikieducator.org/OERNZ/Resources/Bounties>

Getting a taste for OER

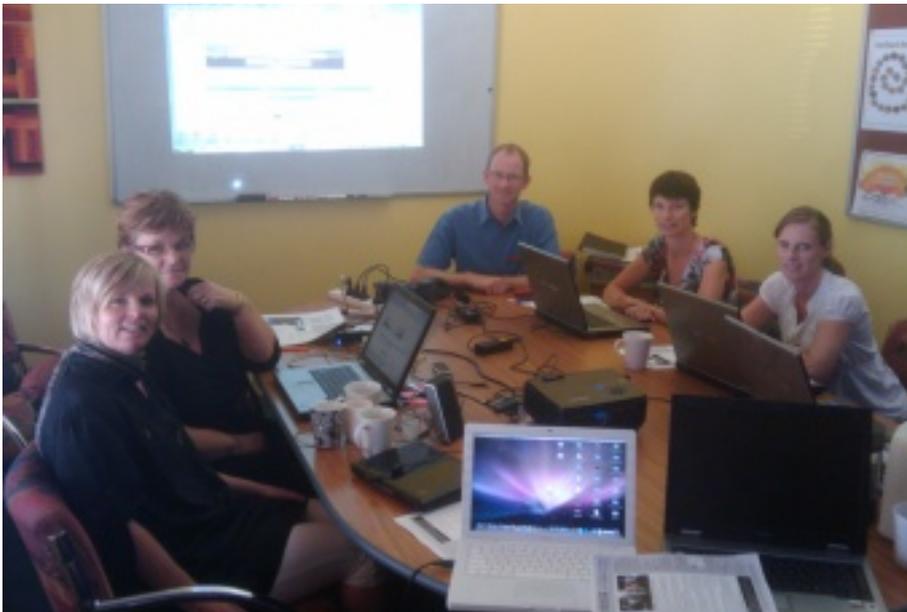
Red Beach School, Albany Senior High School and Normandale School recently held 'wikitaster' sessions to help staff build their 'wiki wizardry'.

"Both sessions covered essential wiki skills, such as how to edit a page, create new pages, work with multimedia and insert links," said facilitator Mark Osborne. "The most memorable part of both days was the number of ideas that teachers had about possible WikiEducator projects, particularly those that involve the students building the teaching and learning materials themselves.

"Projects born out of the wiktaster sessions include student-created drama tutorials, multimedia classics workbooks, mathematics tutorials and a student-built recipe book, complete with instructional videos. Wiki recipes anyone?"

For more on Wiktaster sessions:

<http://wikieducator.org/OERNZ/wiktaster>



PARTICIPANTS IN THE FIRST OERNZ WIKITASTER SESSION AT RED BEACH SCHOOL.

What is OERNZ?

Part of WikiEducator, OERNZ is an open project whose aim is to create an online community for teachers in New Zealand that will foster the collaborative development and sharing of digital resources in support of the national curriculum. These resources are then freely available for anyone to use and, under licences which give you the permission, to alter, improve and redistribute.

Sharing Kiwi experiences with the OER world

Recently, OERNZ was invited to join a panel discussion at Yale University to share our experiences with leading OER practitioners with the view to assisting cross-national collaboration in open education.

"It's humbling to know that our work here in New Zealand can contribute to helping other countries with open education," said Dr Wayne Mackintosh. "Well done everyone! It was great to learn about experiences of the Dutch Ministry of Education, Brazil, OERUK, OER Africa and OECD, and bring this back home to New Zealand to take our work to the next level."

The session was part of The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation's 2010 Open Educational Resources Grantees Meeting.

http://cmi2.yale.edu/hewlett_conference_2010/

We are not alone

The Dutch Minister of Education, Ronald Plasterk, recently launched Wikiwijs, a national OER wiki commons similar to OERNZ. In the coming months, we'll be exploring ways in which New Zealand and The Netherlands may be able to collaborate.

<http://wikiwijsinhetonderwijs.nl/english/>

WANTED: WikiAmbassadors

We're still looking for people to become WikiAmbassadors and be our point of contact at 150 schools across the country. You'll be responsible for distributing newsletters and motivating local staff, as well as promoting the OERNZ concept of a community of educators and a platform for free educational resources, collaborative development and national network building.

For more information:

<http://wikieducator.org/OERNZ/Roles>

Or to register your interest:

<http://wikieducator.org/OERNZ/WikiAmbassador>

Past issues of OERNZ News

Don't worry if you missed out on the first two issues of OERNZ News, you can download copies on our resources page.

<http://www.wikieducator.org/OERNZ/Resources>

Got a question?

We're developing a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section on OERNZ. So, if you're looking for answers or have any question, go to:

<http://wikieducator.org/OERNZ/FAQs>

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So, please share and print this newsletter and its contents. The more teachers who know about and use OERNZ, the better it will become.

<http://nz.wikieducator.org>