

OERNZ NEWS

Issue 1, December 2009

By Kiwi teachers for Kiwi teachers

Join us in sharing the knowledge

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OERNZ is an open project whose aim is to create an online community that will foster the collaborative development of digital resources in support of the national curriculum. These resources are then freely available for anyone to use and, under some licences, to alter, improve and redistribute.

"It's a national repository of free content resources developed by Kiwi teachers for Kiwi teachers," said project founder Dr Wayne Mackintosh. "What OER materials do is provide real freedom to educators because they're stored in formats using Creative Commons licences that let teachers adapt and modify them to suit the needs of their own teaching style and student context."

These materials can include:

- Learning content – course materials, learning objects, lesson plans, tutorials, handouts, journals, etc.
- Tools – software to support the creation, delivery, use and improvement of open learning content
- Implementation resources – intellectual property licences to promote open publishing of materials.

The initiative is being supported by the Ministry of Education and WikiEducator (wikieducator.org), a wiki project where teachers can collaborate on creating and reusing educational materials. OERNZ is also working with approved LMS vendors to easily reference and incorporate OER into the preferred learning environment of individual schools.

How can you get involved?

There are many ways you can become involved. You can join the OERNZ mailing list (<http://groups.google.co.nz/group/oernz>) or one of our planning teams. Look out for copies of *OERNZ News* or information in *INTERFACE Magazine*. You can also sign up for one of the free online training sessions or even consider becoming a WikiAmbassador for your school! And when you're ready, why not join us by launching

your own free portal page for your school to profile your OER work.

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What is Creative Commons?

Creative Commons (CC) is an attempt to establish a fair middle way between traditional copyright and a free-for-all of intellectual property. The organisation has developed the 'all rights reserved' concept into a voluntary 'some rights reserved' system that offers a range of copyright protections and freedoms for authors and artists.

www.creativecommons.org.nz

We need you!

Want to get involved? We're looking to appoint at least one WikiAmbassador at every school in New Zealand. This person will be our point of contact for distributing newsletters and motivating local staff. They'll also promote the OERNZ concept of a community of educators and a platform for free educational resources, collaborative development and national network-building.

If you have a passion to widen access to quality education through open networks and free content, get in touch.

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Training the trainers

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