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information on huge computers on the mountain. Japanese collaborators have to travel to New Zealand to operate the 1.8 metre MOA telescope.

The new KAREN link will allow scientists here and overseas to access data and analyse it as it streams in. The KAREN link is also vital for remote control of telescopes in the future.

This will lead to more discoveries and boost international collaborations. As Mount John director Karen Pollard says, "If someone tells us that a supernova has just gone off we can immediately observe it. It allows us to follow up on observations of interesting objects very quickly, which gives us the opportunity to make important additional discoveries."

Other major science projects at Mount John will also benefit – a GPS receiver recording the movement of tectonic plates and a project looking at wind speeds in the upper atmosphere.

Connecting the National Radio Telescope Facility at Warkworth allows New Zealand to demonstrate its capability in radio astronomy to potentially take part in the global radio astronomy project, the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) that aims to answer questions about the origin and evolution of the universe. This would make New Zealand part of an international radio astronomy research programme of epic proportions.

The Tier 3 KAREN PoP at Warkworth will be linked to the nearby Telecom satellite ground station, opening the door to KAREN access for users that transit the station, such as the Chatham Islands, Scott Base, and some Pacific Islands.

These connections were made possible through the Ministry of Research Science and Technology's (MoRST) Remote Site Connectivity Fund on behalf of the New Zealand government. This fund provides a one-off investment to connect remote important science infrastructure to KAREN for a minimum of three years, and has wider reaching benefits in extending KAREN's footprint. Both spurs will be operational from March 2010.

www.karen.net.nz/remote-site-project

New service for research success at Victoria University

VUW researchers are beginning to benefit from a new, cohesive research service strategy.

Contributor: Jonny Flutey, Relationship Services Manager, VUW

In 2008 Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) carried out a review of services available to our research community. We found two gaps in research focused IT services:

- Lack of published information on available services
- Absence of a central point of contact for service enquiries

It was also found that individual researchers or groups had a very siloed approach to instigating IT services. Due to a lack of institutional information some IT services were under-utilised, duplicated or unsupported.

To rectify these issues, VUW created a new research service catalogue and put in place a research based customer relationship model.

The catalogue contains service information from Faculties, service units and external providers including:

- Information Technology Services
- VUW Library
- School of Engineering and Computer Science
- Canterbury University
- KAREN
- Microsoft

The service catalogue is updated by ITS, who also provide the IT relationship engagement with the research community and respond to requests for new services.

This approach is starting to generate success with two new research services being instigated from community requests.

More requests are already moving forward and will be implemented soon.

We're more than happy to share the catalogue and details on the relationship model with other KAREN Members.



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Jonny Flutey and Kiara



Supporting our world-class science community

BeSTGRID and BlueFern have joined forces to advocate for investment in a new coordinated, national infrastructure for High Performance Computing and eResearch for New Zealand.

Professor Mark Gahegan (BeSTGRID and University of Auckland) and Tim David (BlueFern and University of Canterbury) are leading a proposal on behalf of 14 KAREN Members and research entities for a coherent ecosystem of High Performance Computing and eResearch tools and services, to bring advanced computing to the desktop of our science community. The proposal has been submitted to MoRST's Research Infrastructure Advisory Group (RIAG).

According to Mark, the proposal addresses a very real, immediate need of the research community in New Zealand – the need for computational infrastructure that will allow us to explore the 'big questions' and through that achieve the goal of becoming a prosperous world-class centre for science, engineering and innovation.

"The scale and complexity of research questions that will help drive our economy and protect our environment keeps growing at an alarming rate. New Zealand's science community desperately needs computational infrastructure to keep it on an equal footing with our offshore counterparts," said Mark.

This infrastructure includes computational platforms, vast amounts of storage, advanced modelling and simulation tools, and increasingly complex experimental environments.

Initial funding, often project-based or local, has started to make inroads into our infrastructure requirements, but creating and sustaining any significant infrastructure is beyond the financial means of any single organisation. In a bold move, BeSTGRID and BlueFern have agreed to work together to develop plans to build this infrastructure. This proposal to RIAG is seeking the funds needed for the creation and operation phases.

"It makes far more sense for research institutions to collaborate in the development of this infrastructure than for us all to try to provide it alone. This proposal represents a concerted effort led by BeSTGRID and the BlueFern Group to develop and provide the High Performance Computing and eResearch facilities that the country needs to support its scientists.

"The proposal has been developed through consultation and support from many of the nation's key institutions and research groups. We ask for your support, and welcome your involvement and suggestions to make it more effective and inclusive," said Mark.

The proposal is available in full at <http://wiki.karen.net.nz/index.php/E-Research>



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Keep in touch with KAREN

There are many fun and fabulous ways to keep up to date with KAREN happenings.

- Receive our news feed via [email @ www.karen.net.nz](mailto:www.karen.net.nz)
- Receive our news feed via [RSS @ www.karen.net.nz/news/rss](http://www.karen.net.nz/news/rss)
- Follow us on [Twitter @ KARENnews](https://twitter.com/KARENnews)

MET: getting close to Members

After 3 years of connecting core Members and driving uptake within other key sectors, the outreach arm of REANNZ are now focusing on building deeper relationships and driving greater value for Members.

The team to take on this challenge is the new Member Engagement Team (nee Development and Uptake).

A few months back we took another look at the way we were interacting with Members - what was going well, what we could improve on, and what the team's key objectives should be moving forward. This included interviews with some Members and other key stakeholders to find out what they thought we could do to improve communications and provide more value to our Members.

As a result of this exercise, we've put in place a new Member relationship strategy and the team renamed the Member Engagement Team (or MET for short) to reflect the emphasis we are now placing on Member relations.

Over the past couple of months some of you would have met with one or more of the MET - Dave (Acting Manager), Emma, Vicki and Bill - and hopefully got a better sense of our key objectives and focus moving forward. Our ultimate aim is to provide better KAREN outreach within each Member, maximise Member ROI on KAREN through increased use and innovation, and ensure more open and consultative communications with the Member community.

Please don't hesitate to contact the MET (including Chris Litten, the new MET Manager) with any relationship, communication or funding enquiries.



NMIT students prepped for IPv6

Computer studies students at NMIT are primed for the future internet after getting their hands dirty with IPv6.

KAREN is an IPv6 (Internet Protocol version 6) native network and since the network's launch in late 2006 it has been the only New Zealand network to offer IPv6 as a standard service offering. This means our Members have an advantage over the rest of country of being able to plan and implement IPv6 capability on their networks now.

It also means our Members are ideally placed to train the next generation of technology professionals who will run IPv6 networks and create the applications that run across them. Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) is one such Member, and recently drew on REANNZ's implementation of IPv6 on KAREN to help deliver a training session to a class of students.

Presenting via video conference, David Brownlie from the REANNZ Operations Team, delivered a 2-hour lesson covering the origins of IPv6, configuration, how to manage the transition, as well as a

real-time workshop on IPv6 desktop configuration.

NMIT Senior IT Lecturer, Mark Caukill, said "the students benefitted from David's firsthand knowledge of the protocol and were pleased with the chance to see it in action. They were also pleasantly surprised to find that 'subnetting in v6 looks easier than in v4!' I'm looking forward to calling upon David again to be a guest lecturer in next year's class."

David was chuffed to share his IPv6 learnings with the students and continues to advocate for IPv6 adoption. "A lot of hysteria has been whipped up about IPv6. I hope this session helped spread the message that the transition from IPv4 to IPv6 is a relatively benign one, and that IPv6 will in time lead to significant advantages in network performance and increased flexibility for network design, implementation and administration", said David.

Report: eResearch Australasia

A hardcore group of 10 New Zealand eResearch advocates and practitioners headed across to the third eResearch Australasia (eRA 09) event at Manly Beach, 9-13 November.

Contributor: Julie Watson, MoRST

The Australian government's plenary session on day one bowled over the New Zealand contingent with the details of their \$1.1 billion investment in 'super science', including \$312 million over four years being invested in eResearch Infrastructure. At the same time, however, there was strong recognition from across the Tasman of the success of the less well endowed BeSTGRID approach to eResearch services.

Trans-Tasman collaborations continue through BestGRID's leadership on a project with the Australian Research Collaboration Services to upgrade the entire Australasian middleware.

The style and content of eRA 09 has matured; where the first two conferences largely focused on the technology and exemplar projects, this conference had a strong focus on institutional models for eResearch uptake. Check out the presentations at:

- www.eresearch.edu.au/imason2009
- www.eresearch.edu.au/hellmers2009

Librarians were in the limelight as critical for understanding and deploying service-oriented approaches to institutional data management processes. A strong data management stream ran the length of the programme.

Events 2010

February

8-11 February: APAN29, Sydney

16-18 February: Square Kilometre Array NZ 2010, Auckland

April

16 April: eResearch Wellington, Wellington

20 April: TUANZ Telecommunications Conference 2010, Wellington

July

tbc: National eResearch Workshop, tbc

See www.karen.net.nz/events

KAREN mythbusters

www.karen.net.nz/karen-mythbusters

Myth #2: KAREN only gets me to my collaborators within New Zealand

BUSTED: KAREN extends far beyond our shores. Our international network extends all the way to Sydney and Seattle.

At these landing points, KAREN connects with over 50 similar research and education networks across the world, giving you access to millions of people and resources without data charges.



From left: Kevin Buckley (VUW), Sam Morrison (Victorian Partnership for Advanced Computing) and Vladimir Menci (University of Canterbury) at eResearch Australasia