

Proposed Waterwatch

Developments 2010

Kelvin Nicolle*

During 2009 an informal review of the Waterwatch programme was undertaken by the chairperson Dr Jonet Ward and the programme manager Kelvin Nicolle. Dr Sue Jarvis was also brought into this process as she has expertise in secondary school teaching and the development of school curricula.

The rationale behind this informal review came from the Ministry of Education release of the “new” school curriculum that is scheduled to be implemented in 2010. The Waterwatch programme for primary and secondary schools has therefore been adjusted to fit with the new curriculum.

The review process also gave the Waterwatch team the opportunity to re-assess its provisions for senior secondary students who must work towards gaining NCEA (National Certificate of Educational Achievement) credits. In the past the Waterwatch team have been frustrated that schools tend not to use Waterwatch with their NCEA classes. It was realised that this was because of the many constraints within the Achievement Standards (AS) system of assessment that most schools use. To try to address this situation, over the past few months Sue Jarvis has gone through a series of AS assessment tasks in order to determine which could be used directly or modified for use with the Waterwatch programme. It was decided that Waterwatch would fit in with standards in the following subject areas at NCEA levels 1, 2, and 3: Biology, Geography, Education for Sustainability, and Agriculture. Sue has prepared many modified AS documents accordingly.

At a Biology teachers’ meeting (16th November 2009) hosted by Lincoln University, some of these draft AS documents were made available to attendees. After 20 minutes most copies had been taken, indicating an interest and an appreciation that the Waterwatch team were providing a “package” that could be utilised by teachers of NCEA classes.

To date, two schools have already booked Waterwatch for 2010 using these AS resources. Waterwatch will work with the schools to adapt the draft AS resources to meet their specific requirements.

** Kelvin Nicolle is the manager of the Waterwatch programme based at Lincoln University.*

The Lincoln University Outreach programme seeks to engage with stakeholder groups in the community and also to promote educational opportunities for school students and other community groups.

Further information on the Outreach programme as a whole (including Waterwatch) can be found at:
<http://www.lincoln.ac.nz/About-Lincoln-University/outreach/>

The following Department of Environmental Management staff are prepared to speak at schools on environmental, transportation and planning issues:

Geoff Kerr, Roy Montgomery, Ken Hughey, Jean-Paul Thull.

Please contact Jean-Paul Thull Jean-Paul.Thull@lincoln.ac.nz to arrange for speakers from the Department.