

DORA update for InternetNZ

09 April 2013

DORA

- Since the start of Term 1, Stepping Up classes on board DORA have been running weekly at venues in Aranui, Waltham and Rowley. These people, who have already completed the Computers in Homes programme, come on board to increase their digital literacy. Work readiness (CVs and job searches); online trading (housing accommodation); budgets and spreadsheets; desktop publishing and digital images were covered.
- DORA's solar panels are so efficient, that I have never had to plug her in ship-to-shore to charge, and have only had to use the generator once when at Children's Day for a whole day.
- Wherever I park her, interested people come on board to find out more about her.
- DORA was well received at Children's Day in Hagley Park last month, with a constant stream of families coming on board to investigate. While the children explored educational games and online colouring in, I was able to engage with their parents - many of whom were in education, social work, etc. This was a great PR opportunity.
- DORA had a busy schedule on Census Day, starting at the New Brighton Pier at 7.30 am for TV One News (who did not show up) and ending up outside Chisnallwood and Avondale Schools later in the day. TV One rescheduled for lunchtime at Central New Brighton School, and as a result, DORA was featured on the 6pm news – as the Census Bus.
- The Vintage Club in Leeston, has approached me to assist with teaching their elderly club members (farmers) to use email and search the Internet. Finer details still to be worked through. This would be great PR and advertising for Farmside and InternetNZ.
- I have yet to get back in contact with Rural Women, who are also very keen to make use of DORA as part of their monthly ICT training sessions.
- I have been in discussions with the Libraries regarding the synergies of DORA and the library buses. Christchurch has two new post-quake library "vans" which are simply full of books - and no computers. Many libraries are no longer in existence since the quakes. We are looking to trial parking DORA alongside a library van at a couple of venues to see how this might work.
- This Sunday DORA will attend the Phillipstown Community Day at Phillipstown School, a Computers in Homes school, which has received much publicity recently over closure.
- The Lyttelton Project Centre is interested in the concept of DORA. This will be discussed further at a scheduled meeting.
- DORA will be used on Tuesdays and Thursdays during Term 2 for Computers in Homes training at Addington and Woolston Schools, as neither has an available space for training, due to quake damage and mergers.
- DORA will continue to be used next term for SteppingUp classes.
- I have discovered The Wash - this is a truck washing facility near the airport. Ideally DORA needs to be groomed and washed twice a term.
- Flat tyre: DORA had a slow puncture, which turned out to be a nail. Gainsborough Motors have been very helpful in sorting out such issues with DORA.
- DORA is a wonderful asset, and could be used fulltime if the resources were available.
- I have advertised with Volcan (Volunteer Canterbury) for voluntary drivers and tutors that might like to adopt DORA and help out with what is turning into a hectic schedule for one person.
- Much inspiration has come from Estella Pyfrom, who is attempting to bridge the digital divide with her bus in The States. <http://www.estellasbrilliantbus.org/>
- DORA's blog has become very useful as a tool for sharing with interested parties. I have also created a one page flyer. <http://doradigitalbus.blogspot.co.nz/>

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