

## » SCHOOLS WINNERS AFTER THEFT

*Catching thieves isn't in the job description for School of Education computer staff, but their new-found talents could have far-reaching implications.*

Software designed at Waikato University which helped track a stolen computer will now be given away to schools and tertiary institutes to help combat computer thefts.

The software was developed as a means to track and communicate with an Apple Macintosh computer, which was stolen from the home of Dale Hills, a computer support group employee at the School of Education.

Dale Hills sometimes worked from home on his Apple iMac, which had already been set up to advertise its internet provider address. When the stolen computer was set up again, he was able to tell it was online. The computer was using an open wireless access point, so the computer staff were able to track it to within 100 metres. The Police then got a search warrant for the internet service provider and located the computer. A man has been arrested and faces charges.

Steve Leichtweis, the manager for the IT group said it was hoped the software for Apple computers would be made available, free, to all primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. He said it would be a deterrent to thieves who often treated schools as "supermarkets". "We are not interested in making money from the idea, but want to help stem the tide of computer thefts from schools and tertiary centres. From our point of view, it's a great way of keeping track of your assets," he said.

Dr Leichtweis also confirmed that a second laptop has been recovered as a result of publicity surrounding the software.

For further information schools can email:  
soehelp@waikato.ac.nz  
or phone Dr Leichtweis 07-838-5002 (extension 8375)

## » YOUTH LEADERS HELP SAVE KIWIS

How to save the kiwi is just one of the many issues secondary school students explored on a conservation programme recently.

The student leaders from seven South Waikato and Manawatu/Wanganui schools were part of the Kiwi Forever Scholarship Programme, an initiative aimed at challenging youth to become leaders of change.

The six-day field-trip experience involved a variety of activities such as exploring the Māori view of the kiwi, pest control, plant monitoring and tracking and releasing kiwi into Karioi Rahui.

Supporting the secondary students and organising the activities were teacher education students from the School of Education, Department of Conservation staff and teachers.

The Kiwi Forever Scholarship Programme is a collaborative initiative involving the University of Waikato, the Department of Conservation, the Untouched World Foundation, Iwi Te Ahi Ka o Paerangi, the Bank of New Zealand and the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.



## » ORFF TAKES OFF AT WAIKATO

*In January, 19 teachers from throughout New Zealand took part in a Level 1 workshop component on the art of implementing Orff-Schulwerk music pedagogical principles and practice.*

Nine of these participants were doing the workshop as a component of a postgraduate paper, Orff Music Education: Theory and Practice 1, coordinated by Clare Henderson, Senior Lecturer in the Arts and Language Education Department.

The occasion was the fruit of a unique memorandum of agreement, signed in 2006 between the University of Waikato and Orff New Zealand Aotearoa (ONZA) – the first time that the University had entered into a formal, collaborative agreement with a professional association of teachers.



Andrea Ostertag (left) modelling dance.

While the University hosted the workshop, the travel costs incurred in flying in international presenters – Christoph Maubach from Melbourne and Andrea Ostertag from the Orff Institute, Salzburg – were met by ONZA.

Ostertag's responsibility was for the dance component. Of her teaching, Auckland teacher, Tony Ramsay, commented: "She had prepared our bodies with incremental exercises over the previous hour and half and when she finally allowed us to improvise I felt an emotion I can't even put into words. It was a testament to how skilled and powerful her facilitation was."

Another participant, Robyn Trinick, Senior Lecturer in Music Education at the University of Auckland, described the course as offering just the right level of challenge – physically, musically and intellectually. "It was not just a series of prescribed activities. The focus of the course was on teaching/learning processes, with great scope for individual interpretation and application."

According to Associate Professor Terry Locke, Chairperson of the Arts and Language Education Department at the School of Education, the course was an important step in establishing a postgraduate research culture in music education. "Ten enrolments for a postgraduate course in any Arts discipline is by far the biggest we have ever had."

Established by German composer, Carl Orff in the 1920s, Orff Schulwerk is a way to teach and learn music, which is based on the fusing of singing, moving, dramatic play, clapping games, and instrument playing. Creative idea exploration and development, including improvisation, is central to this active approach to music education.

According to Clare Henderson, "The approach honours what participants bring to the teaching, learning environment and uses their skills and abilities as the basis for the learning. Special instruments exist to facilitate teaching and learning, such as tuned and untuned percussion."