



Fast research network unleashes collaboration at Rangi Ruru Girls' School

A TelstraClear solution takes care of all telecommunications needs for Rangi Ruru Girls' School and gives students access to a whole new world of content and collaboration via the high-speed KAREN research network.

With 700 students and 80 staff accessing the web for information and educational content every day, Rangi Ruru Girls' School in Christchurch can't afford breakdowns. The school is reliant on a robust, worry-free and scalable Internet service.

"Consistent, high-quality internet connectivity is one of the top needs of the school," says IT Manager Barry Baughan.

Rangi Ruru Girls' School, founded in 1889, is an

independent day and boarding school for Years 7 to 13 students. Around 120 students live onsite in the school's boarding house.

With more than 90% of students going on to further tertiary study in New Zealand and overseas, the school has a good reputation. It has been consistently placed in the top New Zealand schools for a range of academic, sport, creative and cultural activities, says Barry.

The school supports up to 400 unique devices

KEY POINTS

- TelstraClear's 'one-stop-shop' solution takes care of all Rangi Ruru's telecommunications needs, simplifying management of the network.
- TelstraClear's ability to link the school up to the high-speed KAREN research network was a driver behind signing up with the company.
- Proactive account management and its ability to listen and respond make TelstraClear a valued Rangi Ruru partner.
- Cost-effective complete solution cuts mobile phone costs.



PHOTO BY: DAVID BAIRD

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Barry Baughan, Rangī Ruru's IT Manager

accessing the internet for information every day. Students go online via laptops, desktops and smaller devices, such as iPods, wirelessly via filtered Internet.

TelstraClear has provided telephony and data services to the school for over eight years and is a valued partner, says Barry. But in the last couple of years the school has seen an increasing need to upgrade its network to be able to offer its students the best possible opportunities.

Rangī Ruru wanted the ability to connect to other schools, both locally and overseas, to collaborate and share services and content. And a top priority for the school was to connect to the Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network (KAREN), which offers extremely fast, unrestricted broadband to New Zealand education, research and innovation communities.

Being linked up to KAREN enables Rangī students and staff to access all the information, tools, people and content they need without having to worry about usage-based charges. KAREN offers benefits such as online tutorials, with the tutor at a different location – even in another country; quick exchange of large volumes of data; access to large-scale national and international infrastructure and the ability to share lectures via video conferencing.

Rangī Ruru Girls' School put out a Request for Proposal document last year for a network upgrade that would combine all the school's telecommunications services – telephony, data and mobile. The school received a number of interesting solution proposals, however TelstraClear was one of the few companies that could actually provide the full solution. “To us it was important to have only one supplier that could meet all our needs,” says Barry. “It makes management of the system much easier for us.”

TelstraClear won our business because it had “the complete package”, he says. “It's a one-stop-shop. We have a single point of contact for all our telecommunications needs, that saves a huge amount of time for us and means one provider can bring the full value to the school.”

The solution proposed by TelstraClear was also the most cost-effective – one of the school's main requirements, says Barry. And even better, TelstraClear could provide the much-coveted connection to KAREN without impacting on 'normal' Internet performance. By delivering separated

KAREN and TelstraClear Business Internet Access services over a single fibre link, traffic performance remains high – among the best in the country, according to TelstraClear Account Manager Shauna Anderson. To Barry, this was an important factor in their selection.

Another driver behind selecting TelstraClear was its high quality of service. “With TelstraClear, we never go offline,” he says.

The transition to KAREN went smoothly. It was well planned, tested and implemented, “as you would expect”, says Barry. Rangi Ruru’s students are now enjoying fast access to a wealth of content via KAREN. “Access to the KAREN network is a huge step forward for us,” he says. “It has opened up a whole new world of collaboration that we could never have dreamed of before. We are now able to do all the high-end stuff, like high-definition video conferencing with other schools, both in New Zealand and overseas.”

With the infrastructure in place, the door is now open for initiatives like cloud solutions and sharing data, backups and resources with other schools throughout the country, says Barry. TelstraClear’s centralised solution also includes mobile phones, which means that the school’s mobile phones were transitioned from Telecom and Vodafone to TelstraClear. With management, maintenance and IT staff often on the go, costs of calls from head office to mobile phones on different networks were escalating and becoming a problem. But by pulling all mobile phones into one supplier the school could take advantage of customised rates. This has greatly reduced the cost of calling school cell phones from our landlines, says Barry, and TelstraClear is now working with the school to assess and measure other costs associated with mobile calls to help cut our costs even further.

Barry is happy with the way the school is looked after by TelstraClear’s account team. During the tender process, he felt that the team listened to what the school wanted and tried to meet those needs. For example, TelstraClear initially offered a 10 megabit per second (Mbit/s) connection to KAREN but the school really needed a 100Mbit/s connection to be able to support its education goals and provide the best service to its students, says Barry. TelstraClear came back and said “we can do that”, he says.

“TelstraClear has a proactive approach to business and is aware of the education marketplace. The company shows an impressive ability to listen and respond to our needs,” Barry says.

To discover how TelstraClear can provide the right solution for your business, simply call **0508 BUSINESS (287 463)** or visit www.telstraclear.co.nz

Rangi Ruru Girls’ School

- Rangi Ruru Girls’ School in Christchurch is an independent day and boarding school for girls in Years 7 to 13.
- The school has approximately 700 students, of which 120 live onsite in the school’s boarding house.
- Rangi Ruru Girls’ School, founded in 1889, is ranked among the top New Zealand schools for a range of academic, sport, creative and cultural activities.
- The school has around 80 staff.



Why TelstraClear?

Telecommunications is one of the world's fastest changing industries.

In New Zealand, TelstraClear has developed its own network and range of leading edge voice, data, internet and mobile solutions for New Zealand businesses. Many of the largest organisations in New Zealand rely on TelstraClear to provide their national and Trans-Tasman communication solutions. For these organisations, and many more, TelstraClear has shown it is adept at understanding the complexity of its customers' operations and designing relevant and reliable solutions. Our relationship with New Zealand businesses is based around four fundamental core offerings:

1 SERVICE

We understand and respect the needs of your business.

2 TECHNOLOGY

A complete range of services that are scalable to your business's changing needs, and organisational complexity.

3 TRUST

A company that you can rely on to deliver on the most challenging requirements

4 VALUE

Market Competitive solutions designed for your business.

When we combine these four elements we develop long term relationships with our customers. We can then ensure that our customers have the right products and plans to support their success with their own customers.

We also support the communities that support us. As part of our corporate social responsibility programme we work with children and young people, to help them develop the confidence they need to succeed and ensure a brighter future for all New Zealanders.

With TelstraClear, you are joining forces with one of the most dynamic communications companies in New Zealand that is backed by Australasia's largest and most progressive telecommunications company, Telstra Australia.

We have the right technology, the right people and the right attitude.