

Creative Commons Aotearoa New Zealand History and Current Status of the Project August 2010

History

During the period 2004–2006, the need for Creative Commons licences to be adapted to the New Zealand legislative environment, and the ways in which this might be done, were discussed by a number of experts, among whom were Ian Thomson, the late Paul Reynolds, Brian Opie, Winston Roberts and staff of the National Library.

2006

The group realised that the backing of an established organisation was needed for this work. A national information meeting and workshop for interested parties was held at the National Library in 2006, with participation from CC International and CC Australia.

It was the Council for the Humanities which agreed that November to take ownership of the project as an activity within the framework of the NZ Digital Strategy. The development of Creative Commons Aotearoa New Zealand was overseen by the Council's own Humanities Research Network Board and co-ordinated by Executive Director Brian Opie with the help of Louise O'Brien from the Humanities Research Network.

The cc-nz discussion list was initiated by Danyl Strype and the first website was overseen by Alistair Pharo and developed by CWA New Media, the Council's existing client.

2007

In mid-2007 the Humanities Research Network Board was granted resources from the Community Partnership Fund to develop a more comprehensive website with CWA New Media. The National Library included the matter of NZ Creative Commons licences as an element within the Digital Content Strategy which it was leading.

Brian Opie coordinated the efforts of Paul Sumpter, Andrew Matangi and Susy Frankel to produce New Zealand's 3.0 versions of the licences, which were launched at the end of 2007.

2008

Jane Hornibrook joined the project in February 2008 as a website administrator and worked alongside Louise O'Brien and Brian Opie. The new CC website was launched and Brian and Louise retired from the Council's projects around the close of that year.

Individual creative artists were the the largest group of early adopters of the licences, closely followed by individuals working in the education sector or for community groups. As time went by, bloggers and cultural institutions increased their use of CC but government use of the licences was slow in comparison to take off. The number of New Zealand websites appearing via Google searches for CC materials almost doubled in the first quarter of 2009.

The National Library continued advocating for CC within the public sector and lent its support to the CCANZ project.

2009

By 2009 the Council was intending to enter into the structure of the Royal Society of New Zealand and therefore would not be able to maintain the Humanities Research Network Board structure. The Humanities Research Network Board did not meet in 2009, and both the Creative Commons Aotearoa New Zealand and the Humanities Research Network projects reported directly to the Council from November 2008 till December 2009.

Basic activities for the Humanities Research Network and Creative Commons were maintained by Jane Hornibrook during this period, with the Creative Commons project enjoying contribution and oversight and from the new Executive Director, Stephanie Pietkiewicz.

The CCANZ project entered into relative dormancy during this time as the Council deliberated its future direction (for example, CC workshops for relevant sectors were planned for mid 2009, but are still unrealised). However, uptake of the licences within the community remained positive.

2010

The State Services Commission aided CCANZ in procuring Government funding in Budget 2010, a process which went hand in hand with the development of the New Zealand Government Open Access and Licensing framework (NZGOAL) and the Royal Society of New Zealand's willingness to take on the project subject to independent financial backing. The first meeting of CCANZ Advisory Panel 'kicks off' the next phase in the Creative Commons project's evolution in New Zealand.