

# REANNZ

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION  
ADVANCED NETWORK  
NEW ZEALAND

Speech for KAREN Launch 31 August 2006  
Donald Clark, REANNZ CEO

Network Members, honoured guests, ladies and gentleman, thanks for being with us tonight for the unveiling of KAREN – the Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network. New Zealand's ultra-high speed internet dedicated to the research and education community.

From the outset we've been committed to ensuring that KAREN is not just a technical network. As vital as our lightwaves, switches and routers are they are only part of the story. Equally as important or perhaps even more importantly it will be the KAREN network of people, of applications and of usage. It is the outcomes of new research partnerships and of enhanced learning opportunities that will be of benefit to New Zealand. It will be the KAREN Community in its widest sense that will achieve this. After all, the network is simply a TOOL.

From a small group of advanced networking pioneers in the 1990s and early 2000s, New Zealand now has a strong, dedicated and rapidly growing cyberinfrastructure community. You will see some of the early adopters demonstrating their needs (applications) here tonight. This room is filled with some of the finest minds in the country – people who will form the bedrock of the KAREN community. I hope that you all get a chance to talk, debate and leave with even more ideas of how your teaching and research activities can be transformed and extended by KAREN.

There is an essential paradox at the heart of any advanced Network and KAREN is no exception. We must strive to keep our network advanced – fast, technically leading edge – at the same time as we have to make it an essential utility for our Members in the same way their electricity and gas supplies are. Whilst some parts of our community will (thankfully) always care about the details of our Network architecture, true success will be when the majority of our users don't even think about KAREN - even as they use it.

We are only at the start of the digital age. KAREN is faster and bigger than anything you or I could buy today. It will provide a bullet train for ideas and knowledge and will significantly reduce the tyranny of distance that, for New Zealand, becomes ever more acute in a rapidly globalizing world. KAREN provides a lens through which to see the future for all of us.