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eRIDING WITH EWB AUSTRALIA

Overview



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- About EWB Australia
- Our eRider Framework
- ICT4D Projects
 - International
 - ✓ UCH (Uluru Children's Home)
 - Domestic
 - ✓ CFR (Connectivity For Refugees)



About EWB



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- Works with disadvantaged communities
- Improve their quality of life through
 - their education
 - implementation of sustainable engineering projects
- Internal capacity building
 - to expand the dimensions of experience for emerging and practicing engineers



The eRider Concept



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- eRiders are roving consultants
- work on a one-to-one basis with a group of NGOs
- helping each organization to develop and implement an ICT strategy
- tailored to its unique aims, needs and context



Primary aims



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- Communicate the potential value of ICT
- Integrate ICTs into their client's programmatic work
- Enhance the ICT component of their management
- The developing of technology plans through to implementation



eRider skill sets ...



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- have both significant NGO experience and substantial technical expertise
- eRiders also are adept at diagnosing management, fundraising, accounting and personnel problems.
- the ultimate aim of eRiders is to raise the NGO's level of knowledge and expertise to a point that renders eRider services unnecessary.



ICT4D Projects



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- Uluru Children's Home (UCH)
- Connectivity For Refugees (CFR)





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eRiding with UCH



The Context



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- UCH cares for a particularly vulnerable group of girls in the Indian community.
- Since 2003, the Home has housed over 30, mainly rural girls, who have been orphaned or abandoned by destitute parents.
- In 2006 this number will grow to 80



Capacity Building



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- Computers are an invaluable educational tool
- They will be used to teach the children at UCH such topics as English, Math and basic computer literacy
- Office productivity skills and further knowledge of ICT's
 - vocational skills
 - further employability



The Uluru Project



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Hardware

The basic hardware requirements of the project are:

6 x PC's

Router & Networking

UPS

Software

The project will take advantage of Open Source software such as:

Linux

Educational Software

Open Office

Joomla



The Future



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ICT Projects Model

Gaining experience from the Uluru Project and forming partnerships with other like minded organisations will lead the development of an ICT Developments Model

Vanuatu

The Swinburne University EWB Chapter will lead another such ICT Development in Vanuatu, mid 2006

Uluru Project knowledge will in turn benefit this project.





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eRiding with CFR



The Framework ...



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- The Context
- The Challenge
- The Vision
- Capacity Building
- Experiences With Linux
- Lessons Learnt
- Sustainability



The Context



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- Began as a contact through an ABC radio show
- Students unable to use online English resources because of lack of computer ability
- With that preliminary needs assessment, CFR was begun in May 2005



The Challenge



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- Clearly employable but lacking network and skills
- Many of our students have the skills and experience but are unable to build the social capital required for employment
- Domestic problems are on the rise
- Issues of self-esteem



The Vision



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- Goal
 - Increased integration of selected clients into the local community
- Objectives
 - The improvement of computer skills
 - ✓ a marketable skill: ICT literacy
 - ✓ linkages to other public services and resources
 - The improvement of English literacy skills
 - ✓ an environment which encourages two way communication with the the wider community



Program Structure



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- Free computer
- Suite of open source software
- Free Internet access for 6 months
- 24 weeks of training
 - 22 weeks of technical training
 - 2 weeks of social networking
- One hour per session
- Dedicated training in student's home
- Allows for the delivery of a tailored curriculum based on student's objectives



Capacity Building



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- The computer as a useful tool
- Leveraging the Internet's resources
- Email as cost-effective communication
- Capacity building
 - Planned E-group
 - Trainer discussions
 - Student discussion



Experiences With Linux



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- Computerbank Victoria supplies refurbished computers with Debian OS pre-loaded
- Enables us to keep cost structure minimal
- Will transition from students to a different context either employment or education?
 - Students by end of training should know the differences between Linux and Windows
 - Documentation is improving and free
- Overall experience has been positive



Lessons Learnt



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- Technical Trainer-the-trainers
- Cross cultural communication workshops
- Match up between trainers and students is crucial
- Must be cognizant of gender



Sustainability



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- Network of Partners
- Low cost structure
- Volunteer driven
- EWB National Support
- Clients funnel back in as trainers



Conclusion



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- Increasing proportion of incoming project proposals have ICT4D component
- Confirms trend of ICT4D
- Sector driven
- Oceania is an active region
- Partnerships are all important
- Skilled volunteers are our key resource



For further information...



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