

Knowledge Community Case Study

Case Study: Knowledge Community Cluster System



“Mansfield High Country District”

The Mansfield High Country District is a group of schools in a semi-rural area that wished to interlink not only all the schools in the district, but to bring the community as a whole together.

Mansfield chose Knowledge Community over a state government application that was being offered to the schools free of charge because the features within Knowledge Community not only covered all the requirements of the state’s “Ultraset” system, but provided many more tools and was aligned with the school’s need to be more progressive. They recognized that, to engage students in a world of MySpace and YouTube, they needed to have similar tools and philosophy. Once within the system, stakeholders could then also be interested in all the other important learning aspects of the the program. Additionally, all of their previous efforts to have this sort of functionality were disparate, hard to maintain and too reliant on one or two enthusiastic staff members. Quite literally, these efforts began with enthusiasm and lay neglected as teachers moved on or the effort to link systems together became too arduous. With Knowledge Community, however, the district could have all the Web 2.0 tools they required, including Wikis, Blogs and Pod Casts etc, but could also use collaboration tools such as Chat, Messaging, Quizzes, online Digital Portfolios using a single extensive interlinked platform that allowed them to roll out tools as needed.

Importantly too, the High Country cluster have a significant community role and link with employers in the area to jointly train students in trades. Being a rural community also meant that local organizations are heavily involved with the schools so organizations such as the local fire department, regional government and the local zoo all wanted a safe place to interact and collaborate.

Knowledge Community also gave the schools the ability to tap into technologies such as web conferencing, SMS

Messaging, eLearning Repository connection and more to the

desktop. These were important tools for this community, and Knowledge Community seamlessly provided access to these tools by simply checking the options in the administration area. Important too was the fact that these technologies and tools were very much “here and now” and that there was choice for each individual school as well as for district as a whole.

Knowledge Community in the Mansfield High Country District is a growing and evolving system under the complete control of the schools and the district, and allowing these schools to have local control to a shared vision.

Proponent of the system, MSC principal Peter Baddeley, said “Knowledge Community provides an environment where approved parties can communicate with each other privately and freely on all educational matters.” Parents would be able to log onto the school website and review their child’s timetable and activities, and at a later stage use a password to access results and assessments, as well as look at upcoming events and school news



Online school link for parents

Mansfield to launch new Knowledge Community

By RICHARD JAGO

MANFIELD Secondary College (MSC) is to introduce a web-based application today to link parents, teachers and students online.

Called ‘Knowledge Community’, the program will facilitate secure connection between all stakeholders in the High Country Cluster - the Mansfield primary and secondary school system.

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He said parents would be able to log onto the school website and review their child’s timetable and activities, and at a later stage use a password to access results and assessments, as well as look at upcoming events and school news.

Although the Department of Education is developing a similar system - Ultraset - this is still at

the waiting tenders stage and it would be some time before it was available.

“Ours is really an interim measure,” said Mr Baddeley.

“We wanted to get on with it and not wait until the departmental version was ready.”

Knowledge Community will be launched today at 11am at MSC Applied Learning Centre by Mansfield State Council chief executive officer, David Ruff, attended by Suptor Mansfield (MSR, body) and the Northern’s Bill Byers (M.A. Beasley).

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