

# OtagoNet ICT Ambassadors

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Otago Polytechnic has been working with the OtagoNet schools as part of the institution's school alignment project.

## What is OtagoNet?

OtagoNet is a grouping of 11 rural and provincial schools (Mt Aspiring, Cromwell, Dunstan, Roxburgh, Lawrence, The Catlins, Blue Mountain, South Otago, Tokomairiro, East Otago and Maniototo) who share some senior lessons by video-conference. In 2004, these schools were awarded the Tyco Award for "Connection and collaboration through the use of e-communication technologies with an impact on the wider school community". The Minister of Education, Trevor Mallard, highlighted the achievements of OtagoNet in his address at the educational conference NavCon 2k4 in Christchurch September 2004. It is also profiled in the Government's Digital Strategy.

## What are ICT Ambassadors?

The Otago Net ICT Ambassadors project was developed from the Wellington Girls' College's Tech Angels concept where a small group of ICT talented students were provided with advanced training from a recognised provider, gaining NCEA credits as well as a high degree of intellectual and social satisfaction. On their return to school the Tech Angels shared those skills with the staff.

## What did the ICT Ambassadors do?

Twenty two ICT talented students from OtagoNet schools attended an IT course at Otago Polytechnic for four days in April, and will return for two days in July. They were accommodated with 4 - 5 teachers at the boarding hostel of a Dunedin secondary school.

The topics covered were:

- Designing and creating web pages
- Building and programming robots
- Connecting and setting up networks

Industry visits were made to see commercial robotics development at Scott Technology, large network administration at Otago Polytechnic and a local IT start-up company at Braeside Infomatics.

## What did the ICT Ambassadors think of it?

*It was a great course and awesome to meet new people.*

*Had a really great time and I think this was a knowledgeable cool course. Thanks very much.*

*It was all good.*

*Great time – really enjoyed it. Fun for all.*

