



## Finalist 'Best Digital Resource'

**Name:** Benjamin Himme

**School:** Carmel College, Auckland

**Name of digital resource:** Pathwayz

### 1. Describe the digital resource that you want to be considered for the award.

Pathwayz ([www.pathwayz.co.nz](http://www.pathwayz.co.nz)) is a website for science teachers and their students. I started developing the site around two years ago with a friend (who helps me with the more technical components of the site). Pathwayz has notes and videos to help students study Science. We now have coverage of all Level 1 Science and senior Biology externals. We recently added a space where teachers can share resources too (only visible to authenticated teachers). While I have authored about 95% of the site content, we've now opened it up to registered teachers. That means that authenticated teachers can edit the notes, add videos and share resources on the site. Several teachers have come on-board and are starting to help develop material for the senior Chemistry and Physics standards. Pathwayz organises all of its content into a branching "tree of knowledge" - essentially a mind map that helps students to see how ideas are connected. Users can filter the tree according to the curriculum / topic they are studying so that they can see what's immediately relevant.

Pathwayz went live about three months ago. We currently cover 500 scientific concepts with YouTube videos. 366 concepts have notes and 100 have teaching resources attached to them. By the time you read this these numbers will have probably gone up further.

### 2. Why did you choose to set up this resource?

I had produced lots of notes and videos for my own student and wanted to share this with other teachers. Even more so, I wanted to create a space where teachers could share resources and collaborate so that we don't always have to re-invent the wheel and work under our own steam. We are normally so isolated from each-other. The most rewarding thing about the project for me is that it's connected me with teachers from all around the country. Ultimately I hope that Pathwayz will make teachers' lives easier and help our students to learn Science.

### 3. How do you operate and manage the resource?

Pathwayz is my mistress. It's what consumes my spare time. I basically manage the site content, user registrations, promotion, etc. Whenever I make a new resource I try to add it to the site so I generally add something to the website every few days. I've funded the site out of my own pocket and it's cost me several thousand dollars to develop. That doesn't really bother me as the cost pales in comparison to the time that I've invested into the project. Ultimately, I hope one day we'll get funding from the ministry, Google or something like that. For now, I'm just glad that teachers are finding it useful and that some have started to contribute too.

### 4. What outcomes has it achieved for you and your class?

My own classes have started using the website to revise. They seem to find it really helpful. I've also had an overwhelmingly positive response from other teachers. In the last three months (since the

site went live) we've had \*over 200 teachers register \*over 50,000 page views (evidence can be provided upon request)

Pathwayz has also made me think about how I use ICT in the classroom. It's sparked lots of really interesting discussions about what education might look like in the future. Personally, it's helped me start, develop and reconsider my own teaching practice.