

“Growing the potential of information and communication technology for Rotorua communities”

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# ROTORUA ICT PANUI

April/May 2007

## Monthly meeting

The ICT Trust meets once a month from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at the [Rotorua Education Centre](#), 114 Sunset Road (old Sunset Junior High campus), Rotorua. **The next meeting is Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2007.**

## Lakes Webhealth clicking along

Lakes Webhealth recently received a funding boost of \$3,500 via the Rotorua Community ICT Trust to help make health information more accessible to Rotorua communities. The funding comes from contributions to the Rotorua District ICT Strategy by Rotorua District Council and the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust. It will help support Webhealth's ongoing plans for providing convenient on-line access to the Rotorua Good Health database and other health information and services.

More information:

[www.webhealth.co.nz](http://www.webhealth.co.nz)

## Bay of Plenty digital update

Six community partnerships in the Bay of Plenty Region are amongst 120 nationwide that are applying for funding from the 2006/07 Community Partnership Fund. There is \$10 million in the Fund, and total funding requests amount to \$24 million. Bay of Plenty Polytechnic is applying towards a mobile computer lab to provide free ICT training for adults in the region, including digital storytelling. The Rotorua Community ICT Trust is seeking funding towards a one-year “E-Rider” project to help Rotorua social service organisations make better use of their technology. The Poutiri Charitable Trust's project involves 14 learning centres, training and support (including a roving trainer), and development of a web portal. Sport Bay of Plenty is seeking support for a three year project to develop a sports information hub/website for the region. Mount Maunganui College is applying to develop an on-line learning model that increases literacy and numeracy levels and connects students, families and teachers. The final application is from a group of nine schools, under the umbrella of Otumoetai College, to establish a community based on-line learning environment using “KnowledgeNET”. Successful applicants are scheduled to be notified around mid 2007.

More information:

[http://www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz/templates/Page\\_\\_\\_18.aspx](http://www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz/templates/Page___18.aspx)

# High marks for Computers in Homes

Computers in Homes projects in the Flaxmere area have earned praise from University of Auckland researchers. The Ministry of Education report assesses a series of innovations relating to improving home-school relations within and between five schools. Although each school implemented the project differently, they shared the goal of engaging with communities and parents to improve education outcomes for the children. Computers in Homes was the most visible initiative, and was seen to give Home-School Liaison Persons an entrance into homes and provide parents with a positive introduction to the project.

More information:

<http://educationcounts.edcentre.govt.nz/publications/schooling/evaluation-flaxmere07.html>

# NZ broadband connection increasing

According to results from Statistics New Zealand's Internet Service Provider (ISP) Survey, in the six months ended 30 September 2006 the number of broadband subscribers in New Zealand increased 28.6 percent to 611,600. New Zealand has 14.7 broadband subscribers per 100 inhabitants, ranking 19th among OECD countries.

More information:

[www.stats.govt.nz/products-and-services/media-releases/internet-service-provider-survey/internet-service-provider-survey-sep06-mr.htm](http://www.stats.govt.nz/products-and-services/media-releases/internet-service-provider-survey/internet-service-provider-survey-sep06-mr.htm)

# Government rolling out digital initiatives

Recent news from the office of ICT Minister David Cunliffe includes a report that confirms the need for the current telecommunications reforms. "While New Zealand's performance, especially with broadband Internet uptake, has improved in absolute terms, we are in a competitive international race and our relative performance has not improved," Mr Cunliffe said. Mr Cunliffe has also announced that from 1 April consumers are able to keep their existing home and mobile telephone numbers when they change service providers, which will reduce some of the cost of changing providers. Local number portability lets land-line customers change service provider but keep the same telephone number within a local calling area, while cellular portability lets a mobile customer keep the same number including access code. In April, Mr Cunliffe announced the start of a broadband wireless spectrum auction in the 2.3GHz spectrum band, which is expected to enable emerging wireless broadband technologies such as WiMAX.

More information:

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/Minister.aspx?MinisterID=70>

# Tip of the Month

The nice people at winAddons.com have kindly provided website links to 300 free software programs including office applications, archive managers, voice over IP, network tools, education programs and assorted cool stuff. The "top 300 free software" is at <http://www.winaddons.com/top-300-freeware-software/>.