

ROTORUA ICT PANUI

August/September 2006

Monthly meeting

The ICT Trust meets on the last Thursday of each month from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at the [Rotorua Education Centre](#), third floor of the Public Library building (1137 Haupapa Street). **The next meeting is Thursday 31st August 2006.**

Rotorua still chasing digital funding

An initiative to promote better use of computers and the Internet in Rotorua has hit a bump, but the agencies behind the project remain committed. The Rotorua District ICT Strategy is being driven by a Steering Group of representatives from the Rotorua Community ICT Trust, Waiariki Institute of Technology, Rotorua Social Services Council (ROSSCO) and Rotorua District Council. According to the group's chair Paul Killerby, Rotorua was unsuccessful in its first application to the Community Partnerships Fund. “We put in an ambitious application based around employing an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Co-ordinator to mentor community groups. We will be re-applying in the next round along similar lines, making sure we meet all the application requirements,” said Mr Killerby.

Digital Strategy update

The Community Partnerships Fund, one of the cornerstones of the Government's Digital Strategy, is contributing \$20.7 million over four years to partly fund community ICT initiatives. The first funding round, announced in July 2006, approved more than 50 applications totalling over \$6.5 million. The majority of projects are being led by not-for-profit organisations working with partners such as local government and schools. Applications covered a wide range of projects including ICT learning centres, websites and digital storytelling. The "Computers in Homes" scheme is the biggest winner so far, with Gisborne District Council being awarded a grant of \$638,184 to extend Computers in Homes to 500 families on the east coast of the North Island. A \$438,000 sum was also awarded to the Internet Safety Group to produce a series of short television programmes to instill internet and technology safety principles in 2 to 10 year olds. A number of successful projects in the first round were initiated and supported by the 2020 Communications Trust, a not-for-profit organisation that promotes national and regional community ICT initiatives. The Trust has increased its capacity over the past two years to support an increased range and scale of projects.

More information:

<http://computerworld.co.nz/news.nsf/news/F017A2728F299C30CC2571C00016DA49>

http://www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz/templates/Page___430.aspx

<http://www.computersinhomes.org.nz/>

<http://www.2020.org.nz/newsite/index.php>

Rotorua Community Website update

The Rotorua District ICT Strategy includes developing a community website to “promote local information, civic participation and sustainable development”. The project is being led by the Rotorua Community ICT Trust with support from a donation by the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust. Initial meetings have been held with key stakeholders to plan and brainstorm. The first stage of the project will involve developing a portal to existing local web content. Meetings have been held with representatives of rotorua-living.com, webhealth.co.nz and iworldpeople.co.nz to avoid duplication and share ideas. Stage One of the project is likely take several months. The second stage – developing new local content – will be undertaken over a two year period. The first area of focus will be a Rotorua youth website, including links to Da Bomb Shelter website (www.dabombrotorua.com) and other existing content.

FamilyTV Rotorua launched

A new Rotorua television channel was launched on 22nd July. FamilyTV Rotorua is a free-to-air community television station that broadcasts positive family-safe programming including a substantial amount of local content. Family TV has been broadcasting into the Waikato region from Matamata without interruption since 2002. In 2005 the group bought GeyserTV. Plans are underway to expand coverage into Hamilton and Tauranga.

More information:

<http://rotorua.familytv.co.nz/>

Airnet comes to Rotorua

Airnet, an Internet Service Provider originally established in the Hawke's Bay area, has expanded to Rotorua. The company is selling high speed services to local business using wireless technology that provides coverage to the CBD and outlying areas. Airnet's network also provides several CafeNET Wi Fi hotspot points in Rotorua.

More information:

<http://www.airnet.net.nz/rotorua.aspx>

E-Waste update

In July The Computer Access NZ Trust (CANZ) released a 100-page Government funded action report titled “e-Waste in New Zealand: taking responsibility for end-of-life computers and TVs”. The viability of companies which refurbish computers for schools through the CANZ programme has come under increasing pressure from growing stockpiles of end-of-life equipment – notably computer monitors, for which there are no environmentally friendly solution in New Zealand. According to the The e-Waste Report, “the average New Zealand household has two or more television sets and more than one computer, representing a total of over seven million electronic devices. Their eventual disposal represents a potential toxic threat to our environment”. The e-Waste Report is freely available on CANZ's website. The report says that a lack of facilities in New Zealand means most recycling under new product stewardship arrangements would initially have to be done offshore. Small numbers of monitors are already being sent to Australia, where crushed glass is used as flux at a lead smelter and plastic cases are recycled into fence posts and shipping pallets.

More information:

<http://www.canz.org.nz/e-waste.htm>

Any old iron?

On the first Saturday in September a Computer Recycling Day will be held at Wellington's Westpac Stadium. The event is organised by Dell Computers in partnership with the CANZ Trust, 2020 Communications Trust, Ministry of the Environment and Wellington City Council. It provides Wellingtonians an opportunity to dispose of old computer equipment in an environmentally friendly way. If it event is successful the partners hope to roll it out to other areas. Closer to home, the Waste Exchange (0800 NO THROW) has been having “spectacular success” over the last two months after local press coverage about its relationship with Keith Tissink from Mamaku who undertakes small scale computer refurbishing. The Waste Exchange is also in contact with other recyclers and community workers who deal with unwanted computers. These include Computer Recyclers NZ Ltd in Tauranga, Active Training in Katikati, and contacts in Ngaruawahia, Hamilton, Hastings, Whakatane and Auckland. According to Waste Co-ordinator Alice Hughes, “the Waste Exchange fully supports the above mentioned contacts and since the beginning of the year we have diverted 37.8 cubic metres of electronic equipment from the landfill”.

More information:

<http://www.bethedifference.gw.govt.nz/story18408.cfm>

<http://bop.nothrow.co.nz/webapps/site/21092/30096/news/news-more.html?newsid=67180>

<http://www.nothrow.co.nz/>

<http://tvnz.co.nz/view/page/411365/749526>

www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA0605/S00110.htm

www.the-ark.co.nz

Tip of the Month

As part of the Safety Week 2006 focus on child safety, ACC has been promoting cool games and activities on its website which help children to think and learn about safety. Check them out! And remember... it's for the kids, okay?!

More information:

http://www.acc.co.nz/wcm001/idcplg?IdcService=SS_GET_PAGE&nodId=3999&ssSourceNodeId=4175

www.acc.co.nz