

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

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# ROTORUA ICT PANUI

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## Rotorua ICT Trust meeting

The next meeting of the Rotorua ICT Trust is Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2009, 5:30pm to 6:30pm at [The Business Hub](#), 1209 Hinemaru St. Anyone with an interest in growing the potential of computers and the Internet for Rotorua communities is welcome to come along, listen and offer suggestions.

## Lakes Webhealth update – the goods news and the bad

Since its inception around five years ago, [www.webhealth.co.nz](http://www.webhealth.co.nz) has gone from strength to strength. The award-winning site was developed to provide increased access for people wanting to connect with health and social services and relevant information. Its aim is to provide the most up-to-date information for keeping the community connected.

Webhealth is not just a passive information site – it also has kiosks that are targeted at areas of greatest need, and District Coordinators who are actively involved in their local communities. The website has grown regionally from its beginnings in the Waikato Region, now covering Auckland, Waitemata, Counties-Manukau, Bay of Plenty, Lakes, Taranaki and Canterbury.

Unfortunately, the District Health Board funding for Lakes Webhealth was discontinued from 31 July 2009, in response to changing priorities in relation to core health services. Lakes Webhealth's former District Co-ordinator, Rosalie Crawford, continues to work part-time covering the Bay of Plenty Webhealth region, and is also working on the national Webhealth provider database. However, the loss of Rosalie from the Lakes Region means that the future maintenance of the Lakes section of the website is uncertain. The site will be continuing on to at least the end of September. Efforts are under way to source alternative funding.

Meanwhile, development and upgrade work continues on other parts of [webhealth.co.nz](http://webhealth.co.nz), to ensure it remains relevant and 'state of the art'. A notepad function is being rolled out, which enables users to customise and print their own personalised directory of health and social services. This personalised directory is a step up from local health directories that are compiled in some areas of New Zealand, including the fact that the information is kept up-to-date in real time by the listed organisations themselves, rather than being updated only once every year or two years.

In addition, the overall website is progressively being given a makeover to ensure it is as accessible, functional and attractive as possible. New search engines are also being rolled out regionally, based around user-friendly search categories and advanced search functions.

Further information:

[http://lakes.webhealth.co.nz/page/lakes\\_5.php](http://lakes.webhealth.co.nz/page/lakes_5.php)

<http://www.webhealth.co.nz/file/Information-for-Funders.pdf>

<http://www.webhealth.co.nz/file/lakes-provider-letter.pdf>