

ROTORUA ICT PANUI

December 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 25th January 2007.**

Rotorua Partners Sign Up For Digital Future

The four agencies leading Rotorua's ICT Strategy have formalised their partnership through a written agreement. The partnership agreement becomes part of Rotorua's application for a Digital Strategy grant in 2007, through the government's Community Partnership Fund. The grant would be used to support a one-year “E-Rider” project and a range of smaller community ICT projects.

Rotorua's partner organisations are Waiariki Institute of Technology, the Rotorua Social Services Council, Rotorua District Council and the Rotorua Community ICT Trust. According to ICT Trust chair Paul Killerby, “this agreement sends a signal that we each recognise the digital divide in Rotorua and how our agencies can work together to make a difference”.

“Each of the partners brings something to the solution”, said Mr Killerby. “The Rotorua Social Services Council is an effective network into the community and voluntary sector. Rotorua District Council has committed funding through its long term plan, and also plays a leadership role in using ICT to keep people informed. Waiariki Institute of Technology has just established a new School of Computing, Technology and Communication, which will have close ties to the community through its main Rotorua Campus as well as Rotorua In Focus”.

Rotorua's Digital Strategy application is also supported by a donation from the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust and a grant from the Lottery Grants Board. The successful applicants are expected to be notified in mid 2007.

More information:

www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz

Free Web Content For All

Around the world there is a growing movement of ICT activists promoting the concept of free software and operating systems, commonly known as open source. Open source systems such as Linux, and open source software such as Wikipedia, operate under a General Public License that treats “free software” as a matter of liberty. To understand the concept, think of “free” as in free speech, not free beer. Open source users have freedom to run, copy, distribute, study, change and improve the software.

Wikipedia's founder, Jimmy Wales, recently announced that his for-profit company Wikia Incorporated is ready to give away - for free - all the software, computing, storage and network access that Web site builders need to create community collaboration sites. Wikia will go even further to provide customers with 100 percent of any advertising revenue from the sites they build. The free hosting service, called “OpenServing”, turns the economics of web publishing on its head by rewarding community web designers for developing popular sites.

More information:

<http://news.moneycentral.msn.com/provider/providerarticle.aspx?feed=OBR&date=20061211&id=6262909>

<http://www.openserving.com/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:About>

<http://www.linux.com/>

Want to Tell Your Story?

Does your community organisation have something to say to the people of New Zealand? How about making it into a documentary for TV3 Network television? The Open Door project, funded by New Zealand On Air, provides an opportunity for selected individuals and groups to tell their story. If you're involved in an issue, a cause or an activity that you want people to know about, you can apply. Applications close soon for the 2007 series.

More information:

<http://www.opendoor.net.nz/>

Progress Made on Telco Law Reform

A select committee is recommending Telecom be split into three separate divisions. The Telecommunications Amendment Bill aims to force Telecom to open its networks to rivals, to better promote high speed Internet throughout New Zealand and potentially cheaper broadband prices. The select committee recommendation is to separate Telecom into three divisions - network access, wholesale, and retail - which will operate separately from each other. In June, Telecom split its wholesale and retail divisions into separate operating units. The recommendation was greeted with enthusiasm by community ICT advocates including Communications Minister David Cunliffe and representatives of InternetNZ (The Internet Society of New Zealand).

More information:

http://www.nbr.co.nz/home/column_article.asp?id=16827&cid=8&cname=News

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=27879>

<http://www.internetnz.net.nz/media/SelectCommitteeReport>