

ROTORUA ICT PANUI

February/March 2006

Monthly meeting

The ICT Trust meets on the last Thursday of each month from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at the [Rotorua Schools ICT Centre](#), third floor of the Public Library building (1137 Haupapa Street).

The next meeting is Thursday 23rd February 2006.

Making IT count

According to official estimates the Rotorua District is home to 67,600 people. It has an above average proportion of Maori residents (36 percent) and people aged under 15 years (26 percent). The District population is projected to increase to 72,800 within the coming twenty years, which translates to an extra 5,000 houses. So what does this have to do with ICT, you may ask?

Access to official statistics is important for many reasons. Government agencies, businesses and community organisations often use Census data for planning services. Councils also prepare 'state of the district' reports to keep communities informed about local wellbeing. All of these applications rely on timely, accurate and accessible Census information. This involves a mammoth task for the Government to count every person and household. Undertaking a modern Census cannot be done without ICT. This year's Census is no exception, and takes a further leap towards using computers and the Internet to collect and share the information with all New Zealanders.

The 2006 Census takes place on Tuesday 7 March. This year, instead of writing down your answers on a Census form, you have the option of completing your forms online. New Zealand will be one of the first countries in the world to offer this option for its whole population. Online census forms can be completed in English or Māori at www.stats.census.govt.nz. To use the Internet option, just inform the collector when they call. Starting Monday 20 February collectors will visit every household and supply paper forms. These have an ID number that will be needed to log on. A Household Personal Identification Number (PIN) will also be supplied. This, along with the ID number, will allow for everyone in a household who wishes to complete their forms online to do so.

Statistics New Zealand will be relying heavily on ICT to process and distribute the Census results. This year's Census will have a faster turnaround and lower data costs for users than in previous years. The outputs will include detailed reports, map-based information, and population projections freely available down to the suburb (area unit) level.

More information:

Census 2006: <http://www.stats.census.govt.nz/default.htm>

Population estimates: <http://www.stats.govt.nz/products-and-services/info-releases/subnat-pop-est-info-releases.htm>

Population projections: <http://www.stats.govt.nz/products-and-services/info-releases/subnat-pop-proj-info-releases.htm>

Rotorua District Profile: <http://www2.stats.govt.nz/domino/external/web/CommProfiles.nsf/htmldocs/Rotorua+District+Community+Profile>

Key government statistics: <http://www.statisphere.govt.nz>

Population statistics: <http://www.population.govt.nz>

Statistics New Zealand: <http://www.stats.govt.nz/default.htm>

Digital Strategy gets a political boost

In mid-February Prime Minister Helen Clark set out the Government's priorities for 2006 in her Statement to Parliament. This included the need to urgently address problems around internet access and the need for more competitive prices through policy and regulation. “It's become very clear that new initiatives are needed to get faster internet access and at more competitive prices: Our connection speed offerings are on average still too slow. Our standard upload speed is too slow for many users and inhibits some important applications. We are one of the few countries where restrictive data caps are the norm.... We want to work with other parties on solutions which not only enable New Zealand to catch up with the rest of the world, but then continue to keep up as these technologies develop further”.

More information:

Statement to Parliament: http://www.labour.org.nz/news/latest_labour_news/news-060214/index.html

Rotorua ICT Strategy Update

The Rotorua Strategy Steering Group is awaiting news of its application for Digital Strategy funding. The group is made up of representatives from the Rotorua Community ICT Trust, Waiariki Institute of Technology, Department of Internal Affairs, Rotorua Social Services Council and Rotorua District Council. Top priority for the group is to raise money to appoint a Rotorua Community ICT Coordinator for the coming three year period. Receipt of Rotorua's application was confirmed by the Department of Internal Affairs in December, and notification is expected in coming weeks over whether or not it has been short-listed for the next stage of the process.

Meanwhile, Steering Group chairperson Paul Killerby made a verbal submission to councillors in February as part of Rotorua District Council's preparation for its Ten Year Plan 2006-16. Formal Council support, through both funding and staff commitment, will be crucial to the success of the Rotorua ICT Strategy.

Appointment of an ICT Coordinator will be welcomed by the volunteer trustees of the Rotorua Community ICT Trust. The Trust, formed in 2003 to grow the potential of computers and the Internet for Rotorua communities, is fielding an increasing number of local enquiries for refurbished computers, advice and assistance. Often these enquiries can be forwarded to a suitable organisation such as the Rotorua Schools ICT Centre for education enquiries, or Recycled Technology Ltd for pre-loved PCs. However not all enquiries can be dealt with due to the voluntary nature of the Trust. The trustees are also keen to tackle Rotorua's e-waste issue, but need a paid coordinator to create more momentum in this area.

More information:

[Rotorua ICT Strategy - final](#)

[Rotorua ICT Strategy - Background document](#)

<http://www.rdc.govt.nz/News+and+Events/Latest+News/Rotorua+Surfs+Technology+Wave+-+Information+and+communication+technology+strategy.htm>

http://www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz/templates/Page____212.aspx

Tip of the month

If you have broadband and access to a spare computer and webcam, how about putting them to good use as a security device? A range of software is available for home video surveillance, allowing you to send images from your driveway or backyard directly to a secure Internet site. This means you will have a secure record if anything happens at home. Many packages come with remote monitoring, motion detection and easy-to-use instructions.

More information:

Home Video Surveillance Guide: <http://www.video-home-surveillance.com/>