

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

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ROTORUA ICT PANUI

February/March 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 1st March 2007.**

Rotorua Internet access still lagging

The March 2006 Census results show that 54.0% of Rotorua District households had Internet access compared with the national average of 60.5%. There was a similar margin in 2001, when 32.5% of Rotorua District households had Internet access compared with the national average of 37.4%. A question about household access to cellphones/mobile phones was added to the 2006 Census, revealing that 74.5% of Rotorua District households have cellphone/mobile phone access compared with the national average of 74.2%. Statistics about household telecommunications are a blunt measure of social connectedness but do give some indication of the level of digital divide in the District. Results for suburbs and neighbourhoods are expected to be released within the coming months.

More information:

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

NetSafe presentation to RoSSCo

On Wednesday 7 March, Internet safety trainers from NetSafe will be speaking at the Rotorua Social Services Council (RoSSCo) monthly forum. According to NetSafe's Lee Chisholm: “Information and communication technologies (ICT) are rapidly expanding in everyday use. Cyberspace brings many new benefits and also new and unique risks. This presentation will focus on the use of ICT in community organisations and look at how to minimise potential negative impacts. NetSafe is a not-for-profit organisation founded in 1998 providing cybersafety and online security education for all New Zealanders. More about us on www.netsafe.org.nz.” NetSafe's visit is supported by funding received from the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust and Rotorua District Council. A further visit is being scheduled.

More information:

http://lakes.webhealth.co.nz/page/lakes_6.php?more=8451575

E-mail Debbie Tangohau: rossco@callplus.net.nz

Waiariki website looking flash

The web presence of Waiariki Institute of Technology is moving from strength to strength. If you haven't checked it out recently, click on their home page below. Highlights include the free fees for school leavers programme, on-line NZ Diploma in Business, and new School of Computing, Technology and Communications.

More information:

<http://www.waiariki.ac.nz/>

Wellington City Council states broadband vision

The Strategy and Policy Committee of Wellington City Council this month received a report from its strategic planners titled "ICT Policy - Enabling Economic Transformation through Broadband". The report includes a recommendation for the Council to adopt a vision that "by 2012, all of Wellington City will have affordable access to an interactive and open broadband network capable of supporting applications and services using integrated layers of voice, video and data, with sufficient two-way capacity in the city, and out to the world, to meet the ongoing information and communications needs of the city's residents, businesses, investors and institutions." The report recommends that the Council play a key role in planning and achieving the vision. The report on ICT and economic development follows formal adoption of Wellington City Council's 2006 ICT Policy, which includes action plans relating to community development and e-democracy plus a blank section for economic policies. The recent report may result in the Council facilitating the provision of community owned broadband infrastructure and promoting uptake. In a parallel development, Wellington Airport has set up a public Wi-Fi network covering its first floor food court so travelers can surf the Internet for free.

More information:

http://www.wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay/meetings/committee/Strategy_and_Policy/2007/01Mar0915/pdf/01_broadband.pdf

<http://www.wellington.govt.nz/plans/policies/ict/index.html>

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/3903613a28.html>

Public libraries and ICT

Mark Burton, the Minister of Local Government, spoke recently at the first New Zealand Public Libraries Summit in Wellington about the value of public libraries for achieving Government priorities and community outcomes. He talked about the importance of public libraries as access points to information and communications technology, and alluded to the pilot phase of the People's Network project in selected libraries. The People's Network project, through the National Library, has received a grant of \$576,000 from the Community Partnership Fund to initially work with at least four councils and ten public libraries to improve public ICT access and skills. The councils and libraries participating in the pilot phase are expected to be announced shortly. The People's Network is scheduled to eventually link most New Zealand public libraries, providing public access to technology supported by trained library staff.

More information:

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=28482>

<http://www.natlib.govt.nz/bin/media/pr?item=1161055848>

www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk

Tip of the month

Jayne Cravens writes in a special issue of her Tech4Impact e-newsletter: "How Do You Subscribe to a Blog? Or a Web Site? And What is RSS?! ... A growing number of web sites offer "RSS" subscriptions, meaning you can know whenever a web site or blog is updated automatically, but via a specialized web site rather than email.... RSS means "really simple syndication." It's a tool that allows you to create a private web page only for YOU, that is

updated automatically with only the online information you want, generated from web sites and blogs that offer RSS and that you have identified as ones in which you are interested.... There are various RSS readers, many of them free. Google has one that is free and that my husband prefers: <http://www.google.com/reader>. I, however, prefer the free RSS reader from Yahoo, because I already have a Yahoo ID, and I think it's the most simple to set up. If you have a Yahoo ID, then you *already* have an RSS reader ready to use; if you don't have a Yahoo ID, just go to www.yahoo.com and create a Yahoo ID. (other options for RSS readers are listed and reviewed at TechSoup, <http://www.techsoup.org>)....”

More information:

<http://blogs.forumer.com/rss.php?u=jcravens>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tech4impact/message/61>

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