

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

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# ROTORUA ICT PANUI

January 2007

## Monthly meeting

The ICT Trust meets on the last Thursday of each month from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at the [Rotorua Education Centre](#), Sunset Road, Rotorua. **The next meeting is Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007.**

## Education Centre Moves to Sunset Road

The Rotorua Education Centre has moved to the site of Sunset Junior High on Sunset Road. It was previously based above the Public Library. The Centre is an initiative of the Rotorua Principal's Association and Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust to develop technology initiatives in local schools. The move allows surplus space at Sunset Road to be used to the advantage of all schools in the Rotorua District, and demonstrates the Ministry of Education's support for ongoing development of ICT in learning and teaching. According to Education Centre manager Stuart Ramsdale, the new site will be kicked off on 23 February with a one-day "Celebration of Education" conference for Rotorua teachers to explore innovative and collaborative developments.

More information:

<http://www.rpa.school.nz/educentre.htm>

## Waiariki Launches On-line Diploma

Waiariki Institute of Technology is launching New Zealand's first completely on-line National Diploma in Business Administration. The course, which begins on 19 February, is aimed at enabling people already working in administration to study part-time on unit standards designed to fit with their everyday tasks. Vivienne Kermode from Waiariki's new School of Computing, Technology and Communication will be running the programme and is keen to see between 50 and 150 people undertaking the approximately 20 papers. She expects numbers to continue increasing in the future. Chief executive Pim Borren said on-line learning was the way of the future. "While we do not see distance education as our main area of business, we are exploring ways of supporting professional development through training for those students in our region who find it hard to access one of Waiariki's campuses or face-to-face classes," said Mr Borren.

Source: Rotorua Daily Post 19 December 2006

More information:

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

<https://change.waiariki.ac.nz/index.jsp>

## Rotorua Pokie Bar Closes

The New Zealand Herald reported in December 2006 that Rotorua pokie bar Whiskey Jack's was ordered to close for breaching the Gambling Act and will not have its venue licence

renewed. The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) decided not to renew because, over a long period of time, the bar was being used primarily for gambling rather than other purposes such as providing food and drinks.

So what does this have to do with ICT? While there are many positive benefits from ICT, some forms of new technology can have negative effects for individuals, families and communities. Since the late 1980s there has been a proliferation of electronic gambling machines (pokie machines) in casinos, bars and clubs throughout New Zealand. Pokie machines have been found to be very effective devices for raising charitable funds by providing gambling opportunities to local communities. Pokie bars are mostly located in high population areas, including low-income suburbs. Although the Government has acknowledged the high level of social harm from pokie machines it does not seek to actively reduce the number of venues. Territorial authorities have been given responsibility for deciding whether or not new venues may establish in their area. In a few areas, including Auckland City, the local body has adopted a sinking lid policy that no new gambling venues may be established even if an existing venue loses its gambling licence.

Rotorua's policy is that new pokies bars can be established in the CBD only if the total number of machines in the District is less than 380. The cap is set below the current number of approximately 450 machines, in recognition of the social harm to Rotorua communities. There are now less gambling venues in Rotorua than there were four years ago when the Gambling Act was passed. The Council's policy is scheduled to be reviewed every three years, and public input is expected to be part of this decision. According to the Council's social impact report dated November 2003 there are between 400 and 1,600 problem gamblers in the District depending on how problem gambling is defined. The report estimates that an average Rotorua resident spends around \$680 each year on gambling, including pokies, lotto, horse racing, etc. According to Canadian research cited by the Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand, up to 96% of total gambling machine losses are borne by as few as 25% of all pokie players.

More information:

<http://www.rdc.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/6FAA213D-AC5B-4F12-BDFB-CCD9ABB85CA8/0/RDCCLASS4GAMBLINGVENUEPOLICY.pdf>

<http://www.rdc.govt.nz/About+Rotorua/Statistics+and+Demographics/The+impact+of+gambling+in+Rotorua.htm>

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/1/story.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=10416558](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/1/story.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10416558)

[http://www.dia.govt.nz/pubforms.nsf/URL/TASeptember2006.pdf/\\$file/TASeptember2006.pdf](http://www.dia.govt.nz/pubforms.nsf/URL/TASeptember2006.pdf/$file/TASeptember2006.pdf)

## Update on Telco Law Reform

Communications Minister David Cunliffe has announced further details of the process to be followed for the operational separation of Telecom. The newly adopted Telecommunications Amendment Act provides a means to promote fairer and more equal access to key telecommunications wholesale services. It enables a select committee recommendation that Telecom be split into three separate divisions. "It's important that these undertakings are settled in a timely manner and that they deliver a robust operational separation," said Mr Cunliffe. The first phase provides for the Minister to issue a detailed determination on his requirements. There will then be a second public consultation where the Minister invites comments on Telecom's draft undertakings. "If all goes well, and with the constructive co-operation of Telecom, I hope to finalise Telecom's split around the middle of next year," said Mr Cunliffe.

More information:

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=28195>

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=28055>