

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

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## ROTORUA ICT PANUI

January/February 2008

### Monthly meeting

The ICT Trust meets once a month from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. The next meetings will be held at [The Business Hub](#), 1209 Hinemaru St (opposite the Government Gardens) on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008 and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

### On-line tips for sustainable living

Wondering how to save the planet and make a difference in your local community? Information on the Government's new sustainability website makes it easy to go green. The website [www.sustainability.govt.nz](http://www.sustainability.govt.nz) features forums, a sustainability challenge and practical steps to live more sustainably. If you're interested in learning more, check out the 'education for sustainability' website [www.e4s.org.nz](http://www.e4s.org.nz). This includes examples of sustainability education in schools as well as current research.

Rotorua residents will soon have a local website devoted to sustainability and community well-being. The site, being commissioned by the Rotorua Community ICT Trust, will feature information about “how's Rotorua doing”, “who's doing what”, “how to make a difference” and “how to have your say”. Watch out for the launch in March/April 2008, including opportunities for public input into the 'Bright Future Rotorua' community outcomes project.

More information:

<http://www.sustainability.govt.nz>

<http://www.e4s.org.nz/efs/>

### On-line tips for youth well-being

A new interactive website launched by the Government aims to help young people with depression. [The Lowdown](#) website, which includes on-line support services, was developed and designed in consultation with young people. According to Associate Minister of Health Jim Anderton, “young people have higher rates of depression than the general population, and there are still over a hundred young New Zealanders dying from suicide each year. The main barrier to getting help is the stigma of depression and mental illness, and the fact that a lot of young people feel that they should be able to manage on their own. This new website will make it easier for them to get help without worrying about being stigmatised for asking.”

Locally, Rotorua stakeholders have done considerable research into youth well-being. One of the most comprehensive is the [Local Services report](#) completed by Family and Community Services, Rotorua District Council and other partner agencies in 2006. This explores four key issues – alcohol and drugs, non-engagement in education, programmes and activities available to youth, and mental health issues – and their impact on youth offending in the Rotorua District.

More information:

<http://www.thelowdown.co.nz/>

<http://www.familyservices.govt.nz/documents/our-work/community-development/local-services-mapping/rotorua-2006.doc>

## On-line tips for community groups using ICT

If you feel your organisation could make better use of technology but you're not sure where to start, try checking out New Zealand's on-line [Webguide](#). This do-it-yourself manual on the [Waikato Community Net](#) website explains how community groups, not-for-profit organisations and iwi groups can use the Internet more effectively. Further information can be found in the [How-to Guides at www.community.net.nz](#), including basic tips and tools to get you started plus more advanced tips if you are ready for the next step. Another useful resource is the website of the [Nonprofit Open Source Initiative \(NOSI\)](#). This includes a recently updated primer on "Choosing and Using Free and Open Source Software". A good source of local tips is Adam Dunkerley's weekly column in the Rotorua Daily Post. As general manager of Need A Nerd, Adam deals with practical computer issues every day. Recent topics included how to recover lost files, how to keep your files safe from viruses, and pros and cons of going wireless. Back issues of the Daily Post can be found at the Rotorua Public Library. Alternatively, Need A Nerd customers are e-mailed a free monthly 'Nerd Alert'.

More information:

<http://www.wainet.org/>

<http://webguide.net.nz/>

<http://webguide.net.nz/guide/doku.php>

<http://www.community.net.nz/how-toguides/crk/it>

<http://nosi.net/projects/primer>

<http://www.needanerd.co.nz/>

## Engaging your community using ICT

The Waikato 2020 Communications Trust is planning a one-day conference on Tuesday 22 April 2008 titled "[Engage Your Community: Using Blogs, YouTube and other Cool Tools to achieve your group's goals](#)". The conference, to be held at the University of Waikato in Hamilton, will include a series of practical workshops led by experts and community group leaders who are currently using these tools. The event will cater for people with very little technical knowledge who wish to better use technology at very little or no cost.

More information:

<http://webguide.net.nz/engage-your-community/>

## Strengthening ICT connection in New Zealand

Communications and IT Minister David Cunliffe recently announced two new appointments to support the refresh of the Government's Digital Strategy. Doug Martin, a strategic management advisor, will lead discussions with the ICT sector about establishing a new representative body. Tony van Horik, who previously led Project PROBE – provincial broadband extension to rural schools – will facilitate the ongoing roll-out of community-based broadband networks in New Zealand. Working with Local Government New Zealand and the Ministry of Economic Development, Mr van Horik will help develop a "Know How Guide" for local government and community groups to develop business cases for cheaper and faster broadband connection in their local areas.

More information:

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA0712/S00158.htm>