

# ROTORUA ICT PANUI

July/August 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 27<sup>th</sup> July 2006.**

## Accessible Computing

Do to timing differences, last month's ICT Panui didn't find it's way into the hardcopy ROSSCO News - so here again is some exciting news for New Zealand's disability sector.... In April the global computer company IBM announced it is donating 'Web Adaptation Technology' to New Zealand not-for-profit organisations. This includes features to enhance the readability of web pages, reduce visual clutter and read text aloud for people with visual disabilities. For people with motor disabilities it means adjusted keyboard sensitivity and auto-detected errors. SeniorNet clubs throughout New Zealand are the first to benefit from the donation. According to national coordinator Grant Sidaway, "technology skills are needed to perform several basic tasks today, from gathering information to making purchases - and for some these tasks are more difficult than they need to be. Web Adaptation Technology will help us level up the playing field."

More information:

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU0604/S00077.htm>

## Good Health! and webhealth in synch

Good Health! – a hardcopy directory of health and wellbeing services in Rotorua District – has just been updated in conjunction with on-line information at [webhealth.co.nz](http://webhealth.co.nz). Rotorua District Council, Lakes Webhealth and the Citizens Advice Bureau jointly committed to improve and update health and social service information in Rotorua. According to Chris Webber of Lakes Webhealth, the three organisations recognise the value of health provider information being readily available in hardcopy as well as on-line. "We aim to have quality information made easily accessible to our community."

More information:

[http://lakes.webhealth.co.nz/page/lakes\\_6.php](http://lakes.webhealth.co.nz/page/lakes_6.php)

<http://www.rdc.govt.nz/About+Rotorua/Statistics+and+Demographics/Health+and+Wellbeing+Services+Directory.htm>

## Project update: Rotorua Community Website

The Rotorua Community ICT Trust recently kicked off a process to build a Rotorua Community Website, as part of its commitment to the Rotorua District ICT Strategy. The project is one of more than thirty initiatives scheduled over the next three years by various agencies including the ICT Trust. According to Community Website convenor Paul Killerby, "The aim of this project is to engage various sectors of our community that could benefit from a shared online resource, whether it be for communication or creativity." The project to date has involved representatives from a range of agencies agreeing to the scope of the project and brainstorming some initial ideas. "We have identified several sectors including Rotorua youth, social services and sports, for which we will create mock-up pages and seek wider engagement," said Mr Killerby. The project is expected to take two years to complete and is being planned to include input from local tertiary IT students.

More information:

<http://www.rotict.orcon.net.nz/>

## Tip of the Month

If you're ever thinking of buying or selling a house but you're not sure if it's the right time, one source of information to help your decision is the Market Trends page on the Real Estate Institute's website. Free tools include graphs and tables of monthly sales figures since 1992 for your region or area, links to property surveys from Massey University, and AMP's Home Affordability report. Other websites providing free useful information include Statistics New Zealand's Census Table Builder (for population trends) and 'Consensus Forecasts' published by the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research from a range of forecasts by financial and economic experts (including interest rate forecasts).

More information:

[http://www.reinz.org.nz/reinz/public/market-information/market-information\\_home.cfm](http://www.reinz.org.nz/reinz/public/market-information/market-information_home.cfm)

<http://xtabs.stats.govt.nz/eng/TableFinder/index.asp>

[http://www.nzier.org.nz/SITE\\_Default/SITE\\_Publications/consensus\\_forecasts/default.asp](http://www.nzier.org.nz/SITE_Default/SITE_Publications/consensus_forecasts/default.asp)