

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

e-mail rotict@gmail.com website www.rotict.orconhosting.net.nz

ROTORUA ICT PANUI

ISSUE 33
July 2009

Rotorua ICT Trust meeting

The next meeting of the Rotorua ICT Trust is Thursday 30th July 2009, 5:30pm to 6:30pm at [The Business Hub](#), 1209 Hinemaru St. Anyone with an interest in growing the potential of computers and the Internet for Rotorua communities is welcome to come along, listen and offer suggestions.

Rotorua E-Day 2009 update

Local planning is well under way to hold an electronic waste collection in Rotorua on Saturday 12 September 2009. Environment Bay of Plenty has committed resources toward regional E-Day events in 2009, and potentially also the following two years. The Rotorua Community ICT Trust made a submission to Rotorua District Council's Draft Ten Year Plan requesting a similar commitment to ensure local events could be undertaken. In response, RDC has stated that “electronic waste will be specifically addressed in the Waste Management Plan review”, and “Council has previously supported E-Waste days and wishes to continue to do so”. Further details are forthcoming and will be advertised. To sign up for E-Day updates, visit www.eday.org.nz. Efforts are ongoing to encourage New Zealand's IT industry to finalise additional plans for reducing computer waste.

More information: <http://www.eday.org.nz>

More information: http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10583756

New website boosts council services

Rotorua District Council's website (www.rdc.govt.nz) has had a major makeover. The website is now more up-to-date and user-friendly than in the past, including more intuitive search options. The next phase will see more e-services added to meet a growing demand for online access. In related news, the Rotorua District Library has introduced free wireless internet, enabling customers to connect to the internet from their personal laptops.

More information: <http://www.rdc.govt.nz/YourCouncil/LatestNews/Welcome-to-new-Rotorua-District-Council-website.aspx>

More information: <http://www.rdc.govt.nz/YourCouncil/LatestNews/Free-wireless-internet-at-Library.aspx>

Digital Strategy funding update

Successful applicants to the 2008/2009 round of the Community Partnership Fund were recently notified. Twenty-eight innovative projects benefited from approximately \$6 million in funding. The list of recipients is available at www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz. It includes Computers in Homes projects in Northland, Hamilton, East Coast and other parts of New Zealand, as well as an extension to the Wellington e-rider service and a range of other projects. A map of the regions that have benefited from funding to date shows that the Bay of Plenty Region has not taken as much advantage as other areas. Only three previously funded projects are listed, including the Rotorua e-rider pilot project which was recently discontinued due to lack of sustainable ongoing funding.

More information: <http://www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz/Funding/The-Community-Partnership-Fund/>

More information: <http://www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz/Your-Region/>

Online environmental info update

The Ministry for the Environment recently retired two of its environmental information websites and took most of the content offline. Links to the 4 Million Careful Owners website and the Reduce Your Rubbish website have been redirected back to the MfE website. However, in an unrelated development, Rotorua residents can now benefit from additional information in the 'Make a Difference' section of www.myrotorua.com. The new content, covering 16 topics such as waste minimisation and sustainable transport, was compiled by Denise La Grouw and contains a host of local links for further information about sustainable development.

ICT activism

Continuing in the tradition of the former 'notowers' website, which was set up to lobby against the placement of high voltage power lines, here's another few examples of ordinary New Zealanders using technology to support community activism. At the national level, an organisation called CLASS (Community Learning Association through Schools) has set up www.stopnightclasscuts.org.nz to support its efforts to lobby the government to reverse a decision announced as part of Budget 2009 to introduce an 80% cut to the funding provided to schools throughout New Zealand to run night classes or Adult Community Education (ACE). Another national and high-profile initiative is Greenpeace's www.signon.org.nz, which seeks to petition New Zealanders to request their Government to Sign On to a 40% climate change emissions reduction target at the forthcoming UN climate talks in Copenhagen. At a more local level, the Rotorua Cycle Action Network (part of the national Cycling Advocates' Network) has set up a website at <http://can.org.nz/rotorua> to support its efforts to create a better cycling environment. The website provides information about forthcoming events, including 'critical mass' rides to draw attention to the need for a more cycle-friendly city.

More information: <http://www.stopnightclasscuts.org.nz/>

More information: <http://can.org.nz/rotorua>

More information: <http://www.signon.org.nz>

Websites of interest

Here's a few websites of interest that have recently been spotted:

- <http://www.carshare.co.nz> – A free resource for networking with other travellers and sharing rides.
- <http://www.nzsport.co.nz> – Free organising tools for sports clubs and teams.
- <http://www.ngongotaha.com> – Business and visitor information about Ngongotaha village, north of Rotorua.
- <http://www.frontlinesms.com> – Free software for better managing remote field workers using computer and cellphones.
- <http://www.google.org/flu Trends> – Uses aggregated Google search data to estimate flu activity.