

ROTORUA ICT PANUI

June/July 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 29th June 2006.**

Mapping Rotorua's Digital Landscape

A number of initiatives are under way in Rotorua to provide community content on the Internet. These include the Destination Rotorua Tourism Marketing website (rotoruanz.com), Rotorua Business website (rotorua-business.com) and Lakes webhealth (webhealth.co.nz) as well as various private websites. For example, radio station More 95.9FM provides a web-based [Rotorua community noticeboard](#) to complement its community message broadcasts. A new player on the Rotorua scene, [iworldpeople](http://iworldpeople.com), is promoting 'community journalism', paid for by business website profiles, advertisements and classifieds. The Rotorua Community ICT Trust will be working with other Rotorua agencies over the coming years to support additional flaxroots opportunities for web-based learning, communication and creativity, including the introduction of a new Rotorua Community Website. More details to come.

More information:

www.rotoruanz.com

www.rotorua-business.com

http://lakes.webhealth.co.nz/page/lakes_5.php

<http://rotorua.morefm.co.nz/Default.aspx?tabid=743>

www.iworldpeople.com/nz/rotorua

Accessible Computing

Various initiatives are helping to reduce the digital divide for people with disabilities. In April, IBM announced it is donating 'Web Adaptation Technology' to New Zealand not-for-profit organisations. This includes features to automatically enhance the readability of web pages, reduce visual clutter and read text aloud for people with visual disabilities. For people with motor disabilities such as arthritis or stroke, it means automatically adjusted keyboard sensitivity and auto-detecting errors. SeniorNet clubs throughout New Zealand are the first to benefit from IBM's 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." Another initiative of interest to people with disabilities is the Weka website - "What everybody keeps asking" about disability information. This includes a disability support services database, news from the disability sector in New Zealand and overseas, and much more.

More information:

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

<http://www.weka.net.nz/>

E-Waste Update

New Zealand's first "e-day" - a waste collection for electronic rubbish, is scheduled for later this year. According to Steve Dixon of the Ministry of the Environment, "we estimate that there's around 75,000 tonnes of electronic waste going to landfill every year". E-waste contains a number of toxic substances which can pose a health risk if not properly disposed of. "Some of these chemicals are very toxic, things like lead many people are aware can cause brain damage and inhibit brain function, particularly in children. Other things like cadmium and barium and beryllium - these can be cancerous or carcinogenic," Dixon says. Around two million kilograms of computers are thought to be sitting in cupboards and garages around New Zealand. In addition to e-day, the Government is working on long term solutions such as getting manufacturers to take more responsibility throughout the lifecycle of their product.

More information:

<http://tvnz.co.nz/view/page/411365/749526>

www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA0605/S00110.htm

www.the-ark.co.nz

Tip of the Month

If you manage a website you want to be sure there are no 'broken links'. You can check this either by clicking on each individual link, or in some web programs there is a checking system built in. If you haven't got the patience for frequent checking, try the website <http://validator.w3.org/checklink> provided by the World Wide Web consortium. Just visit the site and enter the web address you want to check.