

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

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

ROTORUA ICT PANUI

March/April 2007

Monthly meeting

The ICT Trust meets once a month from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at the [Rotorua Education Centre](#), 114 Sunset Road (old Sunset Junior High campus), Rotorua. **The next meeting is Thursday 29th March 2007.**

Rotorua digital funding in with a chance... again

The Rotorua ICT Strategy partnership has qualified for the Comprehensive Application stage of the Community Partnership Fund, as it did in 2006/07. This time all local contributions are firmly in place for a one-year community ICT project, primarily to support and mentor Rotorua's community and voluntary sector. Local grants and donations have been received from Rotorua District Council, Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust and Lotteries Community. In-kind staff contributions are defined through a Partnership Agreement between the Rotorua ICT Trust, Waiariki Institute of Technology, Rotorua Social Services Council (RoSSCo) and Rotorua District Council. According to Paul Killerby of the Rotorua Community ICT Trust, who chairs Rotorua's strategy steering group, “we've got our fingers crossed for this important final piece of funding, and the difference it could make in terms of reducing the frustrations and boosting the capabilities of local social services and other groups.” The Community Partnership Fund is expected to be highly oversubscribed, and announcements will be made by around the middle of 2007.

Rotorua Public Library e-resources

New Zealand public libraries including Rotorua have banded together to buy access to a collection of EPIC (Electronic Purchasing In Collaboration) e-resources. These offer access to thousands of high quality electronic publications, including New Zealand and international full-text journals and magazines, photographs and graphics. EPIC resources are available to Library Card holders only (using the barcode) to comply with copyright requirements. The collection includes an extensive database of biographies of famous people, a database of authoritative answers to health and medical questions and a Student Resource centre providing curricular information on topics such as history, literature and geography.

More information:

<http://www.rotorualibrary.govt.nz/Services+and+Resources/EPIC+Online+Databases/default.htm>

Tangata Whenua set to benefit from CIMS project

The Community Partnership Fund has approved an Expression of Interest from the New Zealand Federation of Voluntary Welfare Organisations to possibly co-fund a new web and email platform for the Tangata Whenua community and voluntary sector. The Community Information Management System (CIMS) aims to improve communications within the sector, by providing a collaborative opportunity to network and extend the reach of communications from each agency, lower the costs of software and technology development, share information and encourage discussion and debate, and avoid duplication of material. NZFVWO's Comprehensive Application is expected to be lodged within the coming month.

More information:

<http://www.nzfvwo.org.nz/>

http://www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz/templates/Page_____13.aspx

Deep vein thrombosis threat to office workers

The New Zealand Herald recently reported that a New Zealand study has warned office workers are at risk of developing deep vein thrombosis (DVT) from sitting immobile at their desks. Researchers found one in three people attending an outpatient clinic reported sitting for eight hours or longer before suffering a venous thromboembolism. The worst-affected were managers, IT workers and taxi drivers, according to the research from the Medical Research Institute in Wellington. DVT is the formation of a blood clot in a deep vein, most commonly in the legs, which can cause pain, swelling, redness and dilated surface veins seen on the skin, and potentially death if untreated.

More information:

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/search/story.cfm?storyid=0009BA13-294B-15F3-A8AA83027AF1010E>

Charities Register on-line

The Charities Register was launched at the beginning of February, signaling an important milestone for the Charities Commission. The Commission was established by government in 2005 to register and monitor charitable organisations in New Zealand and provide them with support and advice on good governance and management. Its role includes promoting public trust in charitable organisations and provide education and assistance to the charitable sector. Registration is voluntary but is a required for retaining tax exempt status. Charities have until 1 July 2008 to register before their tax status is affected. Organisations can complete their application on-line by creating a user account. On-line application takes up to 20 minutes to complete and the organisation's secretary, chair or treasurer needs certify the information is correct. A guide to the Charities Act can be downloaded from the Commission's website. The Commission's monthly update is available by emailing info@charities.govt.nz.

More information:

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

Tip of the Month - Ninging social networks to the masses

2020 Communications Trust volunteer Simon Riley came across this interesting tidbit for organisations (or people) interested in setting up a social network: "Create highly customized social network in moments.... I have to hand it to Ning - it took them well over a year after their initial beta launch to fulfill their promise of allowing "anyone" to create social applications, but they've done it. Ning relaunches tonight with new functionality and an interface that allows even the most novice of web users to create their own highly customized social network in moments.... drag and drop desired modules – such as text boxes, RSS feeds, photos, forums, blogs and videos - into the application in the area you want them.... Customizable themes and templates can then be applied (again, by clicking and dragging, no coding), a logo uploaded, etc. The creator decides if it is a public or private network, and member profile questions can then be added.... The application is then ready to launch. It's completely free, and Ning offers a la carte upgrades like the ability to add your own Google AdSense code for \$20/month, and domain name aliasing for \$5/month".

More information (including video demos):

<http://www.techcrunch.com/2007/02/26/ning-in-full/>

<http://www.podtech.net/scobleshaw/technology/1373/build-your-own-social-space-with-ning-version-2>

<http://www.podtech.net/home/technology/2238/social-networking-with-ning-version-20>