

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

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ROTORUA ICT PANUI

May/June 2006

Monthly meeting

Thursday 25th May 2006 is the Trust's AGM. New members and interested parties are welcome to attend.

The ICT Trust meets on the last Thursday of each month from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at the [Rotorua Schools ICT Centre](#), third floor of the Public Library building (1137 Haupapa Street).

Broadband News

The Government's push towards a digital future continues apace. Most people will be aware of recent news about unbundling the local loop copper-wire lines between telephone exchanges and homes and businesses. The aim is to allow other Internet Service Providers to compete properly against Telecom to provide full broadband services at competitive prices. This news was part of a broader package which includes increased monitoring of anti-competitive behaviour, and encouraging further investment in alternatives such as fibre-optic, wireless and satellite networks. Related to this, 13 applications nationwide are currently being considered for the first round of the Broadband Challenge. According to Information Technology Minister David Cunliffe, “the Broadband Challenge will provide seed funding to improve the availability and quality of broadband internet access by establishing up to 15 urban fibre networks by 2009, and by developing broadband internet access solutions for rural and poorly served communities”. One of the applications under consideration is for Hamilton City. If successful, Hamilton's community broadband network could potentially be a model for other urban centres such as Rotorua and Tauranga.

More information:

www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz

E-Waste Update

Progress is still slow in dealing with increasing amounts of electronic waste in New Zealand. Small-scale initiatives are scattered throughout New Zealand, alongside larger computer refurbishers such as The Ark, but there remains little information about the extent of the issue or a co-ordinated response. In a significant recent move, the Green Party's Waste Minimisation Bill was selected from the Parliamentary ballot. The Bill contains changes intended to reduce the amount of waste created, as well as promoting reuse and recycling. Landfill waste levies would be introduced to help pay for public education about recycling. The Bill would also introduce new rules about what can be disposed of in landfills. In addition, it would create a requirement for extended producer responsibility, meaning manufacturers would be responsible for waste created across the life span of their products.

More information:

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

www.the-ark.co.nz

Tip of the Month

This month's tip is for first-time video conferencers, following a recent meeting between council and government staff in Rotorua, Whakatane and Tauranga (with an audio link to Wellington). The following feedback was compiled by Barbara MacLennan for future use. Firstly, make sure someone at each site is familiar with the technology. Organise the seating so everyone at every site can see each other clearly, and use a remote control to "zoom in" when that's useful. Adjust the microphone position so everyone can hear clearly. At the beginning of the meeting do a round of introductions so everyone knows who is at each site.