

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

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ROTORUA ICT PANUI

November/December 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 30th November 2006.**

Community Partnership Fund

Round 2 of the Digital Strategy's Community Partnership Fund is open for Expressions of Interest until 19 December 2006. Round 1, announced in July, granted \$7.5 million nationally towards community ICT projects, mostly centred around building confidence and skills in using ICT, and creating new website content relevant to communities. The Fund provides matched contributions to local partnerships undertaking community ICT projects. The Rotorua ICT Trust is co-ordinating an application in partnership with Waiariki Institute of Technology, Rotorua Social Services Council and Rotorua District Council.

More information:

www.digitalstrategy.govt.nz

Get Computer Wise

Waiariki Institute of Technology offers free ComputerWise online computer training courses on a wide range of subjects. You can take as many courses as you like and use them to prepare for recognised qualifications. Each course starts with a 2 hour introductory session, then the training is online at your own pace, and your own place, via the Internet. The project is part of the Government's knowledge wave initiative, aimed at upskilling New Zealand communities in computing.

More information:

www.computerwise.co.nz

www.waiariki.ac.nz

Libraries Gear up for Digital Future

One of the successful applicants from Round 1 of the Community Partnership Fund is the National Library of New Zealand, which received a \$576,000 grant to begin piloting a New Zealand version of the UK “People's Network”. The aim is to give greater access and guidance on computers and the Internet through New Zealand's public libraries and teach basic ICT skills. The pilot will network together at least four councils and ten public libraries. Initial work will test the technology, develop content and establish the application's online gateway. Work on the project will begin in December 2006 and the People's Network is scheduled to eventually link most New Zealand public libraries, providing public access to technology supported by trained library staff.

More information:

www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk

<http://www.natlib.govt.nz/bin/media/pr?item=1161055848>

Tip of the Month

Computer spell checkers and grammar checkers don't always help as good as they should. If in doubt, think “dictionary.com” and you'll never be stuck for words again. Dictionary.com not only provides word definitions and a thesaurus, it also has added features such as writing style guides, advice on punctuation, and a free text translator covering a range of languages. Essayez-le!

More information:

www.dictionary.com