

ROTORUA ICT PANUI

ISSUE 31
November 2008

Three-year ICT strategy winds up for Rotorua

A three-year strategy to grow the potential of computers and the Internet for Rotorua is coming to a close. The Rotorua District ICT Strategy was led by the Rotorua Community ICT Trust in partnership with Waiariki Institute of Technology, Rotorua District Council and the Rotorua Social Services Council (RoSSCo). A key aim was to improve the capability of local social service organisations to take advantage of communications technology. Highlights have included the following:

- ✓ This newsletter – the Rotorua ICT Panui – distributed to approximately 300 organisations per month through the RoSSCo News and by direct e-mail. This issue is the last in its current form.
- ✓ A Rotorua E-Rider service to provide free technical advice and mentoring for not-for-profit groups. Initially established as a one-year pilot project, the service has been extended to mid-2009 thanks to funding from the Rotorua Trust, COGS and Lottery Community. For further information or a copy of the evaluation report, contact paulkillerby@gmail.com or phone 0-27-293 2575. (Our thanks to existing clients who contributed feedback for the evaluation report).
- ✓ Initiation of a Rotorua E-Day electronic waste collection as part of a nationwide grass-roots initiative to reduce toxic waste going to landfill and recover precious metals. The local event in 2008 was funded and led by Environment Bay of Plenty and Rotorua District Council with support from other partners including the Rotorua ICT Trust.
- ✓ A range of new community websites, including information on Rotorua's community outcomes (www.myrotorua.com), a fun and interactive website for local young people (www.rotaz.co.nz) and a resource for social service organisations (www.rossco.org.nz).
- ✓ The forthcoming E-Engage Your Community Conference at Waiariki Institute of Technology on 28 November. This is a one-off opportunity in which experts from around New Zealand will demonstrate free or affordable Web 2.0 tools that can enhance your communication toolkit. Registrations are open until a few days before the event (contact Richard, rossco@callplus.net.nz or 349 4440).

Other activities have included support for the placement of a Webhealth kiosk in high-profile local areas to promote awareness of www.webhealth.co.nz; and sponsorship of a visit from Netsafe to raise awareness about 'internet safety'. Parallel developments at the national level have included www.webguide.net.nz (a guide for community groups, iwi groups, and not-for-profit organisations) and the Techsoup programme (discounted software). Additional work is occurring at the regional and national level to make broadband more affordable in the longer term.

Next meeting

Due to the wind-down of the Rotorua District ICT Strategy, the Rotorua Community ICT Trust is switching to a less frequent meeting schedule. The next meeting will be its AGM – Thursday 30th April 2009, 5:30pm to 7:00pm at [The Business Hub](#), 1209 Hinemaru Street (opposite the Government Gardens). To contact the Trust at anytime, e-mail rotict@gmail.com or phone 0-27-293 2575.