

ROTORUA ICT PANUI

October/November 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 26th October 2006.**

Let's Get Physical

With summer coming fast it's time to think about spending more time outdoors and getting more active more often. Rotorua Event Venues recently introduced a new X-Zite website for ideas about getting active in Rotorua. The website www.xzite.co.nz offers activities from aqua jogging to yoga. Forthcoming activities listed on the site include a guided walk on Mount Ngongotaha's historic Jubilee Track on Sunday 29 October. The website encourages any programme involving physical activity to add their details so people can find out about them. Another recent addition to Rotorua's digital landscape is the website of Cycling Rotorua Incorporated, www.cyclingrotorua.co.nz. Cycling Rotorua was formed at the beginning of 2005 as an amalgamation of Velo Sport Rotorua and the Rotorua Cycling Club. Forthcoming events promoted through the site include the Annual Rotorua to Ohope Fun Ride on Sunday 12 November 2006, featuring 100km or 50/50 Relay options and with proceeds going towards Youth Cycling in the region. Finally, another new website worth knowing about is www.cancel.co.nz by RadioWorks NZ Ltd, which seeks to make it easier to find out about sporting event cancellations. At present this only has a limited amount of information but club captains from any sport and any part of the country can register with the service to provide a txt-based cancellation service for their members.

More information:

www.xzite.co.nz

www.cyclingrotorua.co.nz

www.cancel.co.nz

Keeping NetSafe

Planning is under way for a visit to Rotorua by NetSafe, the Internet Safety Group, during March 2007. A partnership of the Rotorua Community ICT Trust, Rotorua Social Services Council (ROSSCO) and Rotorua Education Centre have invited ISG staff to spend time with Rotorua groups to provide information and training about “Internet Safety” including ways to manage access to online gambling, pornography and other issues. Further details will be promoted in early 2007. Meanwhile, at the national level, NetSafe has been approached to “export” its know-how about safe and sensible Internet use throughout the South Pacific. “We have established a cybersafety programme that we know is effective and we're keen to get involved,” says NetSafe's Executive Director, Martin Cocker. “How it pans out will depend on the funding. We can help with the logistics and co-ordination but it needs to be driven by local groups.” Among its successful initiatives is the NetSafe Kit for Schools which has since been adapted for use in the UK.

More information:

<http://computerworld.co.nz/news.nsf/news/3E6D8AF54CCCD597CC2571F1000CCC9C>

What's Up in Your Community?

Rotorua community information is becoming increasingly available online. Lakes Webhealth (www.webhealth.co.nz) provides an online access point for health, social service and local community newsletters, including news from Toi Te Ora Public Health, Mokoia Community Association, Health Rotorua PHO, Rotorua's Mental Health and Addiction Sector, the monthly ROSSCO News and many others. Another source of information worth checking out is the Safe Rotorua! community safety newsletter, available through the Rotorua District Council website. The latest issue for October 2006 includes news on the forthcoming single non-emergency number project to be introduced by the Police. Other items include the latest on Rotorua's CBD community safety initiative, an update on the Youth Transition Service, planning for emergencies, and the Safe TXT service provided by Vodafone and Telecom which enables you to register your whereabouts on a central database via text message in case something happens to you.

More information:

http://lakes.webhealth.co.nz/page/lakes_92.php

www.rdc.govt.nz/News+and+Events/Latest+News/Safety+Rotorua.htm

“Be Prepared” with ICT

Websites and texting are being increasingly used around New Zealand to support emergency preparedness. Communication company OPTN limited has launched a free text messaging notification service in the Western Bay of Plenty, Manawatu, South Waikato and other areas which provides mobile phone owners with live updates in the event of fire danger or civil defence emergencies. The service involves a very small one-off registration fee for subscribers, after which all texts they receive are free. According to Barrie Herlihy, Manager of the South Waikato Emergency Office, the service will enhance the ability to ensure people have immediate access to timely and consistent information. “Getting real time information to people during a civil defence emergency is critical. This service, along with more traditional mediums such as radio, is fundamental to helping us do this.” Another new tool for emergency preparedness is the www.getthru.govt.nz website. This includes information about how to get ready for a variety of emergencies as well as national civil defence news and other resources.

E-Waste Update

The recent Wellington computer recycling day has been heralded a huge success. Dell Computers collected 54 tonnes of used computer equipment, exceeding expectations and making the event one of the largest of 50 it has held worldwide. Similar events in Sydney and Brisbane last year netted about 20 tonnes of used computer equipment between them. Dell has called on other manufacturers to “follow its lead”.

www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/0,2106,3799363a28,00.html