

For immediate release

7 August 2008

Getting IT Savvy with E-Rider

Rotorua social service groups can now access free technology advice through a local 'E-Rider' or community IT adviser.

E-Rider, Steve Chester, began work on this project in October 2007 under the umbrella of the Rotorua Community ICT Trust. With more than 15 years of IT experience he can offer support at many levels, from a single-computer office to a full network. The service is free to community organisations and has a particular emphasis on building their long-term capability. Paul Killerby, Rotorua Community ICT Trust chair, said the purpose of the E-Rider service was to help raise the potential of computers and the Internet for Rotorua communities. "The E-Rider pilot project is proving successful so the Trust is seeking to continue it for at least another year", he said. "We were very grateful to have received start-up funding through the government's Digital Strategy Community Partnership Fund, Lottery Communities, the Rotorua Trust and Rotorua District Council." Mr Killerby said the Rotorua ICT Trust works in close partnership with other local organisations including Waiariki Institute of Technology, Rotorua Social Services Council and Webhealth.co.nz.

Other projects spearheaded by the ICT Trust include support for community web sites such as www.myrotorua.com and planning toward an 'E-Engage Your Community Conference' to be held in late 2008. The ICT Trust also initiated an electronic waste collection, or E-Day, in 2007, which is being repeated in October this year with support from Environment Bay of Plenty and Rotorua District Council. For further information about the ICT Trust, visit www.rotict.orconhosting.net.nz Steve Chester can be contacted through the Rotorua Social Services Council, or e-mail: steve.chester@waiariki.ac.nz or ph 027-713 3200.

While the teams no longer march through the main streets in Rotorua the Kurangaituku Netball Tournament is still a very significant one.

To commemorate 75 years a book detailing the tournament's history has been written by the Rotorua and District Historical Society. Mary Thompson, tournament organiser said just six teams played in the first tournament in 1933. "Now there are so many teams involved we have to run it over three consecutive weekends." Mrs Thompson said the tournament is so popular because it is a club-only competition as opposed to a representative one. "Most club members don't get to take part in tournaments like this and it's also an end-of-season wind-up for many clubs."

The tournament commences on the last Friday and Saturday in August with the lower club teams (186 teams), the following weekend the seniors (132 teams) play and on the last weekend intermediate and secondary school teams (60) play. “It’s huge logistically to organise so many teams, umpires, scorers and so on and we rely on many volunteers to make it all happen.” The Rotorua District Council has always supported the tournament and even commissioned carver, Pine Taiapa, to make the senior’s first trophy in 1933, which is now too valuable for the winning team to keep. As well as the book, the club is also organising a gala dinner to be held on the weekend of the senior tournament.

Providing some basic physical needs for financially disadvantaged children is the driving aim of the KidsCan Charitable Trust.

The Trust works alongside primary and intermediate low decile schools with programmes including Raincoats For Kids, Shoes For Kids and Food For Kids initiatives. Kate Sanderson, KidsCan grants administrator, said there are four Rotorua schools and nearly 900 children currently involved in the programme. “We respond to requests from the schools to provide one or all of the programmes in an effort to help disadvantaged children and put them on a level playing field with the other children, so they can fulfil their potential.” Generally, all children will receive an All Black’s Adidas raincoat which helps them keep warm and dry in the winter months. The Shoes and Food For Kids programmes are available for those children who have the greatest need. “There are always new schools joining the waiting list for the programmes,” she said. Funding from the Rotorua Trust will be used to offer the programmes to more children in Rotorua.” The KidsCan Trust is funded by donations, sponsorship and grants.

The full list of community groups and organisations to receive funding from the Rotorua Trust in its latest donations round follows:

Bay of Plenty Maths Association Mathsmind competition	\$1,500
Bay of Plenty Science Fair Science Fair	\$3,000
Eastern Suburbs Community Play Group Resources	\$4,000
Globalfest Globalfest	\$20,000
Growing through Grief Grief Programmes for Children	\$7,000
New Zealand Aria Trust National Aria Competition	\$15,000
Presbyterian Support Services Parenting Programmes	\$15,000
RAVE Artist in Residence	\$5,000
Rotorua Community Hospice Trust	\$16,000

Day Care Programme

Rotorua Community ICT Trust **\$3,000**

E-Rider Project

Rotorua and District Historical Society **\$2,000**

History of Kurangaituku Netball Tournament

Rotorua District Riding for the Disabled **\$5,000**

Pasture Renovation Project

KidsCan Trust **\$3,000**

Raincoats, Shoes and Food for Kids

Rotorua Girls' High School **\$1,500**

Role Model Student Programme

Rotorua Young Achievers **\$5,200**

LENZ Young Achievers Project

Te Kura Kaupapa O Ruamata **\$1,500**

Role Model Student Programme

Te Kura O Te Koutu **\$500**

Role Model Student Programme

Western Heights High School **\$2,000**

Role Model Student Programme

Ends

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