



From the Manager's Desk

An update from APNK Manager Chris McClement

This week I read the devastating news that Iain Banks is, as he put it, "officially Very Poorly". Mr Banks is one of my two all-time favourite authors (the other is Robert A. Heinlein) and to hear the news that he has only months to live deeply affected me.

I first read one of his novels, *Look to Windward*, after finding it in the library in Auckland. I was hooked. Since then I have borrowed more of his novels from the library, bought copies from second-hand bookstores, bought several soft- and hardcover editions new (once from an Airport bookstore) and, most recently, bought ebooks through the Amazon store.

I've read - and re-read - his works on paper, computer screen, tablet and Kindle. I feel awful that the best I could do when reviewing his most recent publication was to say that I would read anything he wrote, along with criticizing the high cost of the ebook edition. It seems petty to complain about price when that is the last sci-fi novel he'll ever publish.

Mr Banks announced the news of his ill health through Facebook. It really is amazing that someone who has so enriched my life is able to write what feels like a personal note to me - he appears in my Facebook news feed alongside my friends in Canada talking about their kids, my brother in Australia talking about his mountain biking, my sister-in-law in South Africa talking about my niece, my friends in New Zealand joking about Starbucks coffee ...

This is the gift of technology, that we can be close to those we know and love, and to those we simply admire, no matter the distance or the basis of the relationship. I am grateful for that gift, and for the part that APNK plays in bringing it to people in New Zealand.

Recent customer feedback

Janice | Timaru | 12th March 2013

"Thank you for providing a space to read and use the internet as needed. This library is amongst the best."

Paul Sheridan | 30th March 2013

"Thank you-a vital service for a vital democracy!"

bin zheng | 1st April 2013

"i appreciate the service you provide to us, thanks a lot!"

raj | 4th April 2013

"thanks for the access to internet been very helpful in my studies"

Upper Hutt and Waimate libraries to join APNK

We're thrilled to be able to announce that Upper Hutt City Library and Waimate District Library will be joining the APNK whanau in the next financial year.

Our last install at a new library was in Western Bay of Plenty last year so we're excited that we'll be spreading APNK free Internet to the people of Upper Hutt and Waimate (and maybe even some tech-savvy wallabies) in the near future.



Above—We'll be adding two more locations to this map.

Updated EPIC subscriptions

The latest changes to libraries' EPIC subscriptions, which apply from 1 April, should now be reflected in the links available via APNK regional pages. Every effort has been made to correctly assign these databases but library staff are encouraged to double-check these. If in doubt forward any queries about subscription databases (or suspected errors) to: peoples.network@dia.govt.nz



Introducing... the APNK biker gang

Visitors to APNK HQ in Christchurch often remark at a rather unusual feature of our meeting room—it has a bike rack in one corner of it.

Five of our eight strong team cycle to work regularly and enjoy having a safe, dry place for the bikes to hang out in. APNK Factoid: The team rack up nearly 500km's worth of cycle travel per week!



Above— (from left) Keiran, Moata, Ruth, Glen and Andy and the most well accommodated bikes in Cavendish Business Park.

Kōtui go-live in Kawerau

Kawerau became the latest library to join Kōtui when they went live with their new library system on 28 March.

The process of switching to the new system went very smoothly, and as can be seen in the photos at right, involved happy faces and a delicious looking cake.

The next Kōtui go-live happens on 11 April when the four branch libraries and mobile library of Selwyn District make the change. These libraries will be closed on 9 & 10 April as the final transfer of records occurs.

More photos of the Kōtui go-live at Kawerau can be found at <http://www.flickr.com/apnk/>



Above—Kawerau Library staff can't contain their enthusiasm for Kōtui.

Below— A Kōtui go-live isn't complete without cake.



Mosgiel Library gets PC reservation system

Keiran travelled south to Mosgiel last month where she installed and provided training in a GO-GO PC reservation system. Mosgiel Library has five PCs available for public use which staff can now reserve on behalf of library patrons.



Above—Mosgiel Library now has a PC reservation system.

PC Replacements for South Taranaki

This month brand new PCs, monitors and peripherals (that's just a fancy word for webcams, keyboards etc.) will be arriving at the libraries of South Taranaki to replace their old PC stock.

Feedback from South Taranaki staff is that they're really looking forward to getting new machines. In the meantime we'll tease them with photos of what the computers look like as their software image is installed.



Above—Don't you wish your desktop was hot like me? These shiny new PCs are South Taranaki bound.

Where not to put a library card

A few weeks ago we received a PC that was sent to us from Mahurangi East Library in Auckland. Staff there reported flashing lights, beeping and smoke coming from it. Upon opening up the machine, Glen found some dust bunnies (the likely cause of the problem), but also, a library card that had gone rather off-piste. The offending card has since been sent back to Mahurangi East Library.

Our advice? If a computer has smoke coming out of it, switch it off at the wall ASAP.

Also, if someone says their card is lost, check the nearest PC?



APNK wifi explained

Ever wondered what the various pieces of equipment that make up the APNK wifi service actually do? How do they all fit together? We got Glen to explain it in a short video that you can find on our YouTube channel.

www.youtube.com/peoplesnetwork



Left—Glen explains APNK wifi via our YouTube channel.