

March/April 2010

**Earthquake Edition #2**



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people's  
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kaharoa

Bringing IT to the people

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## Living and working in interesting times

There's an oft-quoted Chinese curse that declares "may you live in interesting times". Well, the residents of Christchurch, the APNK team among them, may not understand who we've annoyed to be on the end of such a curse but we certainly now understand the definition of "interesting".

Since the devastating 6.3 quake on 22 February we've done our best to keep the APNK service running as smoothly as we possibly can, though naturally this has meant some things have been put on the backburner and that some things have taken longer than usual.

We appreciate the patience and goodwill of staff and customers at our partner institutions. Everybody here in Christchurch is committed to getting back to full capability as soon as practicable.

In this bumper edition of our "monthly unless there's been a rather large earthquake" newsletter, you'll find out more about how we've been coping, what's been happening and what our plans for the immediate future are.

- *The shaken and interesting APNK Team*



## New APNK and Kotui Manager announced

In amongst all the upheaval and disruption caused by February's big quake you may have missed the announcement that APNK will have a new manager in the form of Chris McClement, who takes up this role from 18 April.

So who is Chris McClement?

Chris came to New Zealand almost ten years ago from South Africa equipped with a BA (English major), a teacher's diploma, and several years of work experience as an IT Professional.



In New Zealand he has worked as an IT and business trainer, systems engineer, manager of systems engineers, and most recently as a consultant for Fujitsu New Zealand. This means that Chris is equally comfortable with a spreadsheet, a presentation or a one on one chat.

Chris is a sucker for punishment and is presently studying an MBA at Auckland University.

In a moment of great wisdom he married, Mariette, a librarian, and together they have two small dogs and a house full of books and computers.

Chris has not been daunted by the latest shakes in Christchurch or the fact that he comes to lead a team currently without a permanent location. He is relishing the opportunity to work with the team in re-establishing itself for a strong future.

## Congratulations to new National Librarian

It was with no small measure of sadness that we farewelled Penny Carnaby as National Librarian late last year, but we couldn't be happier with new appointee, Bill Macnaught.

Bill and the People's Network are well acquainted, as his previous role was as manager with APNK partner, Puke Ariki in New Plymouth. In addition Bill was a founding member of the APNK Governance Group where his wealth of experience and progressive approach were real assets. Prior to the move to New Zealand, Bill was also involved in the People's Network in his native UK.

Bill also initiated the discussions that led to the National Library supporting the current Kotui project, (something the APNK team will be intimately involved with in the coming months).

Bill Macnaught, officially takes up the role of National Librarian on 2 May.



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## Community of Practice

If you work in a People's Network partner institution and would like to join this forum for sharing ideas, successes, questions, tips and news then please send an email to [peoples.network@natlib.govt.nz](mailto:peoples.network@natlib.govt.nz) with the subject line: 'Join CoP'.

# Earthquake Photo Gallery

The last 7 weeks of APNK in images...



Working from home—Kitchen benches and dinner tables have become office furniture as the APNK team works from home. See below: Keiran in the kitchen, Moata emailing from the couch, a corner in Andy's lounge, and Glen taking a helpdesk call in the garden.



The Building—The National Library building in Central Christchurch suffered serious damage and is fenced off for safety. It is to be demolished.



Care package—Wanganui Library staff made sure the team had the essentials with an earthquake care package (below) that included coffee, chocolate, russian fudge, hand sanitising wipes and relaxing reading material. Many thanks!



Team meeting transport—Most of the team opt for pedal power (left) to beat the post-quake traffic.

Temporary premises—APNK will be operating from the DIA VIP garage (far right) for the next few months. Andy does helpdesk (right) from the new office while Han & Chewie watch.



More APNK images available at our Flickr <http://www.flickr.com/apnk>

## APNK in search of a home

As you may be aware, APNK HQ took a bit of a hammering during the quake of 22 February (see photos, pg 2). So much so, that the building is categorised as unsafe and will eventually be demolished. There is still some question as to whether National Library staff will be able to enter prior to demolition to retrieve any property, files or computer hardware, such is the concern about safety.

As a result the APNK team all worked from home for several weeks before moving into temporary accommodation. The staff at the Internal Affairs VIP garage have made us feel welcome as we've moved office furniture and an unfeasible number of cables into some surplus office space in their building.

However this is temporary solution and APNK will be moving again once more permanent digs are acquired. In the meantime we're enjoying the hospitality (and the dartboard).

*Moata model's the office dartboard at APNK's new VIP garage HQ.*



## Putiki Marae—IT learning for young & old

Judd Bailey at Putiki Marae, Wanganui, is thrilled with the use of their "cyber-hub", a development that was seeded by APNK PCs and wifi, and which has since been bolstered by other equipment and learning programmes. He says -

*I'm working with one group of men, all over fifty and hungering to get a bead on digital technology. This group's focus is on print based assignments at the moment, I have them all learning to create Whakapapa charts and calendars using imagery they have brought in. They're stoked with many coming in on their own time to get extra tuition... bloody fantastic in fact as this is a demographic that don't normally involve themselves in this field. I suspect being Marae based and having one of their own delivering lessons is a major element of this programmes success. Also captured in the imagery is the afternoon homework group that use the suite on a daily basis. And on one afternoon I recorded both groups in the same space (see picture below), the images show how focused they all are. Our younger students are so respectful and helpful towards their elder relations, a few budding tutors among this lot...*



## The People's Network effect at Wairoa

Will all the disruption, uncertainty and stress caused by Christchurch's recent quake, this message and photo from Sandra at Wairoa Library was a welcome ray of sunshine.

*"Late yesterday afternoon Raewyn decided to check out a group of lads waiting their turn on APNK as they were sounding so intensely excited.... found them all group reading a BOOK! (yes actually reading the words out loud) she couldn't resist taking the photo. Hope you enjoy the sight ... all boys very regular visitors to the library due to APNK. :-)"*



*Young APNK customers at Wairoa Library discover the other resource available at the library...books!*

## Gisborne sings our praises

As difficult as the last couple of months have been, it's been tremendous to have appreciative feedback regarding our ability to keep the People's Network running. In particular, Pene Walsh, librarian, sang our praises to the Gisborne Herald -

*Within minutes of Tuesday's devastating earthquake, staff at the H.B. Williams Memorial Library (in Gisborne) had posted signs telling users that free internet - provided by Christchurch-based Aotearoa People's Network - was down. But 20 minutes later, it was up again.*

*"By rights, they probably should have been running for their lives," said Ms Walsh.*

*"Despite those conditions they had the network - which a lot of people rely on - up and running in less than half an hour.*

*"To have achieved that when their lives were in danger is nothing short of incredible."*

*[Transcribed from page 12, Gisborne Herald, 24 February 2010]*

**Contact us: [peoples.network@dia.govt.nz](mailto:peoples.network@dia.govt.nz)**

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Older editions of this newsletter are available at <http://www.aotearoapeoplesnetwork.org>

## From Group to Board—APNK Governance

Recently, changes have been made to the APNK governance structure. Up until now a Governance Group, representing member libraries, affected stakeholders, and the National Library, with input from respected experts, has overseen the development and direction of APNK. The role of the Governance Group has been reviewed to provide effectively for ongoing high level governance of the network in the future.

A paper reviewing options for future governance structure and operation was presented to the Governance Group in November 2010. Following discussion and further input a revised proposal was unanimously approved, and a draft statement of role and purpose for a new APNK Board were prepared.

With the new cost sharing funding of APNK due to be implemented from July 2011, it was considered important to have the APNK Board in place as soon as possible. An establishment date of April was agreed, with a view to having an initial meeting of the Board during April or early May. An early action by the new Board will be to review and amend/adopt draft terms of reference.

So what is the role of the APNK Board?

- Driving the strategic direction of the network
- Regularly reviewing the financial model and monitoring APNK's financial health, to ensure continued viability
- Reviewing and setting fees on an annual basis
- Signing off on the annual business plan
- Reporting at least annually to stakeholders
- Championing the People's Network with stakeholders

### Membership

Members will be appointed to the Board by constituent stakeholders, but once appointed are there to represent the overall interests of APNK, not limited to the specific interests of the appointing group.

Skills and experience sought include:

- the ability to work at a strategic level,
- a background in either the library or information communication and technology profession, or other specific area of expertise relevant to the delivery of a national public service
- a passion for the provision of free access to information

### Meetings

The board will meet no less than twice annually, and will report to the National Librarian and APNK Partners.

*Appointment of new Board members is in progress and the names of the Board and the date of their first meeting will be announced shortly.*

## Recent Customer Feedback

*"...thanks for giving us access to the internet its a huge help to the public."*

*Corazon Clark, 11 April 2011.*

## What is Kōtui ?

Kōtui is something that you'll be hearing a lot about in the library world in the months to come, but what is it exactly?

The word kōtui means "to lace, fasten by lacing, interlace, interlink" and is a new shared library system which National Library is implementing for public libraries to manage their library management and discovery functions. Essentially library networks around the country will have the opportunity to be part of a shared library system, one that will be supported and implemented by National Library.

Because of the success APNK has had working collaboratively with partner libraries it made sense for Kōtui will be supported by a joint APNK/Kōtui team. So Kōtui is something that will be very much on the APNK radar in coming months not the least of which because we'll be looking for additional staff to help out. As well as new APNK-Kōtui Manager Chris McClement, there'll be other appointments made in the future (for example, see vacancy notice below).

We'll keep you posted on news as more Kōtui milestones are reached.

## Vacancy 11/135 - Senior Application Support Specialist

Looking for a challenge? Do you have experience, expertise and knowledge in library management systems? Are you excited by the possibilities that quality technology can make available to libraries and their customers? Would you bring excellent analytical skills with you? If so, then this could be the role for you.

Kōtui is a new shared library system which the National Library is implementing for public libraries to manage their library management and discovery functions. the first stage of implementation has just commenced. The successful applicant would work initially with the project team and subsequently would assume responsibility for the operation and on-going development of the Kōtui library systems to ensure effective support of library processes at member libraries.

This role requires an exceptional person who has both an understanding of technology at a business level combined with outstanding relationship skills. Library systems technology expertise is essential and experience of IT at an operational level would be an advantage. Public library knowledge and experience with a strong understanding of public library mission and values is required as is a good knowledge of public library business processes. This successful applicant will be instinctively able to liaise and work collaboratively with public library staff.

For more information on this vacancy, application details, and full job description see

<http://www.bfound.net/detal.aspx?jobId=96012&Cold=164&rq=1>