



From the Manager's Desk

That it is (nearly) the end of another year only hit home when we put up Christmas decorations yesterday at the APNK offices. That I am working with a wonderful, eclectic, enthusiastic bunch was highlighted this morning when I noticed a "nativity scene" had been set up - complete with Mulder and Scully, Tintin, a Dalek and various other stand-ins for the more traditional barn scene.



Above—Mulder, Scully & baby Yoda.

It has been a good year for the APNK team. We have seen Kōtui go live at eight new libraries this year, bringing the total number of borrowers at Kōtui libraries to 228,435. APNK, now in its sixth year of operation, deployed to one more library district (Western Bay of Plenty) and our network now has over 750 PCs, generating twenty terabytes of downloads per month!

We've also had the privilege of Greg Hendren working with us for the year. Greg has done some amazing work, and must receive credit for setting up the collaboration tools that Kōtui members now have access to. Unfortunately Greg has decided to seek his fortune across in Australia and we wish him all the best as he heads to "the West Island".

I know that the holiday season isn't much of a holiday for public libraries and so I want to wish you all the best as things get really busy for you. The APNK helpdesk will be running throughout (except for the Statutory Holidays) so if things do go wrong don't hesitate to call us. We take our partnership with you seriously and want your customers to have the best possible experience when they visit your libraries. And when all is said and done and you get a chance to spend some time with your families, I wish you all the best over Christmas and New Year's!

Recent customer feedback

Anon | 3rd December 2012
thankyou so much,@ 72 living alone this facility @ my library is invaluable,it means I can study in the quiet surrounds of the library. Merry Christmas to you all and festive joy for 20123

Fiona | 21st November 2012
Thanks for the quiet place to sit and write my NANOWRIMO novel, and internet access so I can track my progress :)

Celebrating 5 years of APNK

On 23 November the APNK turned 5 years old. Naturally this involved cake and, in keeping with our IT focus, technology with a shared morning tea and a "Happy Birthday" sing-song with the staff at Kawerau Library via Skype video conferencing.



Clockwise from above—Glen lights candles on the APNK birthday cake baked by Anne, Kawerau Library's impressive cake, Chris talks to Kawerau Library staff via Skype, the APNK team blow out the candles.



More photos of the festivities can be found on our Flickr at <http://www.flickr.com/apnk/>

More library birthdays in December

Not far behind Kawerau, Tararua District Libraries celebrate 5 years of APNK in December and the Wairarapa Library service reaches this milestone in the new year.

Stewart Island reaches 4 years of free APNK internet for library customers and Kāpiti Coast District Libraries have their second APNK birthday in December.

Many happy returns to all!



Kōtui gearing up for 2013

Although there are no further Kōtui go-lives for 2012, planning and preparations for 2013 continue.

Over the last month Susanna, Chris and Andy have been involved with workshops for libraries in Carterton, Rolleston, Hastings and Kawerau who will be adopting Kōtui next year.

Kōtui

Wifi Whither Librarians Wander

It is a well known fact in the library world that librarians on holiday love nothing better than visiting... *other libraries.*

Ngai Deckard of Central Hawke's Bay District Libraries proved this to be true when she sent us the picture at right of her companion using the free APNK wifi outside Motueka Library, in the Tasman District during a recent trip.

A "fantastic service when you've been in the wilds" apparently.



Above—Clint enjoys free APNK wifi outside Motueka Library.

Winton-a-GO-GO

Library visitors to Winton Library in Southland District will have the benefit of a PC reservation system next time they visit, as Greg is, at time of writing, installing the GO-GO system at their library.

Adjusted filtering for Children's only PCs

Recently we've been contacted by staff at a library that has stricter filtering policies for council computers that are only for use by children than for those in general use. Would we consider offering something similar?

Up until now we've operated a standardised approach to filtering and this has worked pretty well, but if we're going to make any changes along the lines of creating a Children's filtering option then we need to have some discussion and feedback from partner library staff about it.

To that end Chris has started a forum discussion about this on our Community of Practice and we welcome comments from our library community on this issue.

If you're a staff member at an APNK partner library and would like to share your thoughts you can do so here.

<http://cop.aotearoapeoplesnetwork.org/forum/topics/exploring-a-childrens-only-option-for-apnk-pcs>

Not a member of the CoP? Email peoples.network@dia.govt.nz subject line "Join CoP" to join.

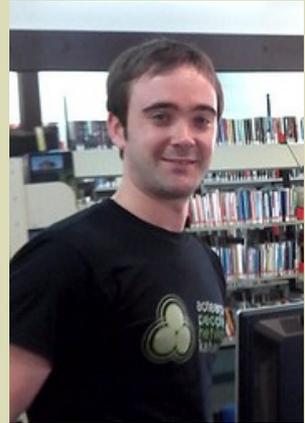
It's the end of the world as we know it

If the ancient Mayans got it right and the end of the world really is on 21 December 2012 then at least we won't have to worry about how we'll manage without Technical Support Analyst, Greg.

Greg's last day of work with APNK may or may not mark the end of the world but either way we'll miss his able presence on the helpdesk as his next adventure takes him to Australia.

Good luck, Greg. It's been great having you as part of the team.

Assuming that the Mayans were mistaken there'll be a new addition to the team in the New Year. More details on who will be filling the Kōtui Application Specialist role in our next newsletter, which will hit the web on 3 February 2013.



Above—Helpdesk staffer, Greg. Leaving APNK for Aussie in December.

Things you might have missed...

- Moata's blog post about attending the National Digital Forum <http://www.aotearoapeoplesnetwork.org/content/national-digital-forum-2012>
- Discussion about providing portable devices to library users on the CoP <http://cop.aotearoapeoplesnetwork.org/forum/topics/do-you-offer-wireless-portable-devices-to-customers>
- Cute birthday artwork from the kids at Kawerau <http://www.aotearoapeoplesnetwork.org/content/turning-5>

Christmas Hours

APNK helpdesk will operate during the holiday period with the exception of public holidays on 25 & 26 December and 1 & 2 January.

Due to reduced staffing over the holiday period no major changes, deployments or project work will be undertaken between 15 December 2012 and 31 January 2013.

Season's Greetings from the APNK team

