



Haere mai, Susanna La Rue

Hi. My name is Susanna, and I'm a SirsiDynix Symphony addict....

Apart from 2 brief forays in science and medical librarianship, I have spent most of the past 13 years working with SirsiDynix Symphony and its predecessor, Unicorn.



Susanna—the new face at APNK

I was working for NIWA in 1998 when they migrated to Unicorn, and quickly became the default systems person. This led to a job at Sirsi Australia in 2000, where I did helpdesk and training work.

I married a Canadian and moved to Winnipeg where I had to take work at the National Research Council library, while I waited for a local library to buy Unicorn. Finally, the University of Manitoba decided to migrate from DRA to Unicorn and so I went begging for a job and landed up working as a systems librarian there for four years.

After a winter where we got down to -44 with a windchill of -54 I decided it was time to come back to New Zealand and was lucky to be offered a job working for SirsiDynix as an Application Support Specialist doing helpdesk and training in their Auckland office.

I moved back to real librarianship to work as the Wellington Medical Librarian at the University of Otago. After the earthquakes, Christchurch wasn't high on my list of places to live, but when I saw a job advertised for a position working for the APNK, I knew that I could conquer my fear of portaloos and chemical toilets, and I relocated to Christchurch to take up the position of Senior Application Support Specialist for Kōtui.

I will be providing support for the SirsiDynix Symphony software and the Ebsco Discovery software, and working on the configuration and policies for libraries as they join the consortium.

I am loving life in Christchurch so far; it is wonderful being part of such a fantastic team doing my dream job!

Networking at NetHui

Andy and Moata attended NetHui last month, a multidisciplinary, multistakeholder event focused on discussing a whole raft of issues related to the Internet and digital world and New Zealand's part of it. Over 3 days they attended sessions that delved into copyright, privacy, accessibility and more.



NetHui also provided the opportunity to meet with some APNK partner staff in the flesh. On the Thursday night there was a small but lively APNK dinner with Kim Taunga (Papakura), Pene Walsh (Gisborne), Paul Nielsen (Hauraki), Paula Guy-Stuve (Dargaville) and Corin Haines (Governance Board).



Above—Paula Guy-Stuve, Paul Nielsen and APNK Andy at an informal APNK dinner during NetHui.

Many thanks to Paula and Paul especially who "testified" during different NetHui sessions on the positive difference that APNK has made in their communities. We also got a mention from MP David Cunliffe in his speech on digital citizenship, and Blind Foundation attendees were complimentary about our provision of accessibility software like NVDA (Non-Visual Desktop Accessibility).

NetHui was a great opportunity to spread the word about the APNK amongst educators, innovators and fellow denizens of the 'net.

Recent customer feedback

As a deaf person I find aotearoa people network lets me keep in touch, with my family, my business, my suppliers and customers. most useful. thank you.
Austen, Buller

Great to see the powerful technology of the net available and within reach of all people.
Rob

Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori APNK style

This year for Māori Language Week, we endeavoured to get some of the more commonly mispronounced place names of APNK sites up and down the country right, as a way of acknowledging te reo Māori and its importance in Aotearoa. Each day last week we tweeted a place name from the APNK site map and provided a phonetic guide that more closely approximated reo Māori pronunciation, rather than that which might be commonly heard. No “Paraparams or Papatwotoes” for us. Kaore (that’s “no”)

You can read more about this and find some handy links to reo Māori resources on our blog. In related news Dunedin Libraries used their APNK portal as a web billboard to promote their Māori Language Week programme to customers.



Dunedin's APNK portal promotes reo Maori resources

On the horizon...

What's up at APNK in the coming month -

- Keiran will be visiting Blenheim (Marlborough District) to install the GO-GO PC control system.
- Wellsford have decided they need an extra PC and this will be arriving with them very soon.
- We'll be welcoming Wairoa into the wonderful world of free WiFi.



Above– Boxes of APNK equipment waiting to be delivered.

Re-Collecting the Canterbury Landscape

Recently Moata attended a gathering of library, museum, archives and heritage professionals that was concerned with capturing, collecting, and preserving Canterbury cultural history—a history that is currently in danger of being lost. The 50 or so strong group included staff from APNK sites around Canterbury, as well as representatives from organisations further afield such as Te Papa Tongarewa—The Museum of New Zealand and the Ministry of Culture and Heritage.

Of concern were important collections still housed in inaccessible or badly damaged buildings. The group also discussed what artefacts, information and documents should be collected now before they're lost or destroyed.

Kete Christchurch (and the other Canterbury Kete) are resources that will be used to capture some of this “future history”.



Above– An image from Kete Christchurch, which is documenting Canterbury's ever changing landscape.

Haere ra to the 'mother' of the APNK

On 1 July, Sue Sutherland's tenure at National Library came to an end and therefore so did her formal relationship with the People's Network.

Sue has always been a staunch supporter of the APNK and it was under her leadership that the project got off the ground.

APNK had a farewell morning tea with Sue in late June and were assured that she would continue to wave the APNK banner whenever possible in her new “civilian supporter” role.

The entire team thanks Sue for her energy and enthusiasm and for the opportunity to work for such a great initiative.



Above– Sue Sutherland (centre) flanked by the APNK team.

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