

From The Manager's Desk

An update from APNK Manager Chris McClement

One of our aims at APNK is to create opportunities for connections. We provide Internet access to connect people to information. We install Skype on APNK PCs to enable people to connect to their loved ones. We deliver Kete to allow communities to connect to their local heritage. Each of these examples leverages technology provided by APNK.

Another way that we create connections is through APNK programmes like LEARN@APNK. It's really exciting to have a new wave of LEARN@APNK kicking off this month. We have had an overwhelming response from libraries around the country. For this wave, we're focussing on connecting librarians with each other, by working more closely with Library Managers and the volunteer guides to facilitate the delivery of the programme. So while librarians learn about using the technology that APNK provides, a significant side-effect is that librarians will get to work together through the six week programme.

Another connection that's happening in June is a meeting of the APNK Board. With representatives from APLM, LGNZ, Maori, National Library, and of course our library partners, the Board has a critical role in guiding APNK strategically.

APNK will also be hosting a meeting of the South Island Kete user group, and we are also working at organising a meeting for all Partner Library Managers to get together and discuss where APNK is, and where its going.

As much as I love the technology we work with, I have to say the connections between people are what I really enjoy. Its going to be a fun next few months!

Recent customer feedback

Billy T | 30th May 2012

Currently I don't have the privilege of internet at home so it's cool to have access to good internet for research and general browsing. great stuff!

Hare | Auckland South | 28th May 2012

Thanks to the staff at Papakura Library for the use of the internet, Tumeke!!

Kat | 11th May 2012

Thanx so much for the wifi service. I'm able to do my assignments in a stress free enviroment

LEARN@APNK Reboot

Our learning programme for APNK staff learn@APNK is getting a reboot later this month. We've been in contact with library managers and it seems that heaps of staff at APNK sites are keen to learn a bit more about the digital world. We've had a very satisfying number of learner nominations come rolling in.

Many thanks to the eager learners who have also volunteered to be guides. Your input is essential to the success of the learning programme.

In early June we'll be contacting all learners to let them know which "semester" of the programme they'll be taking part in and other useful information about the course.

Welcome to WiFi, Dannevirke

We're happy to announce that Dannevirke Library in Tararua District, in addition to having APNK PCs is now also on APNK WiFi.

Eketahuna and Woodville libraries are expected to have their WiFi equipment installed very soon...for Vikings with mobile devices to enjoy.

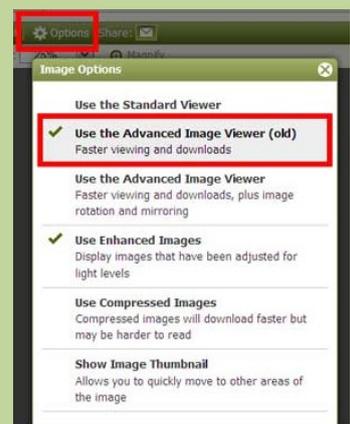


Above—APNK WiFi arrives in Dannevirke.

Ancestry.com: Tip for Interactive Image Viewer

Libraries that subscribe to popular genealogy resource Ancestry.com may have noticed that there is an error occurring for some customers when using the Interactive Image Viewer function.

This may appear as a black screen with the message "Error #2032" after clicking on the "view this image" option. Fortunately we've figured out that if you change settings to 'use advanced image viewer (old)' or to the 'standard viewer' the customer will actually be able to see the document. These settings can be found under 'options'.



Above—Image Viewer options in Ancestry.com may need changing to avoid error messages

REAPing Rewards

Heather Taylor from Tararua District Libraries fills us in on the computer training they've been providing to in their community in collaboration with REAP (Rural Education Activities Programme).

In October last year, Wairarapa REAP ran an Adult Beginners Computer Course at the Eketahuna library running for eight weeks. Eight people (the maximum they could take) enrolled in the programme. They used the three APNK computers and REAP supplied the rest with laptops.

The tutor was Lars Szabo from Dannevirke. Lars happily showed the students whatever it was that they wanted to learn. One person wanted to become more familiar with sending and receiving emails, some were working with photos whilst others wanted to learn about file management.

During Adult Learners Week the students were supplied an afternoon tea by REAP. The classes were held outside normal opening hours. Eketahuna is a very small town, and usually if locals wanted to attend this sort of learning they would have to travel to either Masterton or Palmerston North. Having APNK at the Eketahuna Library enabled Wairarapa REAP to offer this service in the town.

It was so successful that Tararua REAP decided to look at offering a similar opportunity to the residents of Woodville. Their first class starts on June 6th and will be running for six weeks. They plan to run a series of classes over the next few months. Again, we will be running the classes when the library is closed and utilising the APNK computers and the APNK wifi which has just been installed at Woodville.



Above—Wairarapa REAP tutor Lars Szabo introduces keen learners to basic computing at Eketahuna Library.

Kete News

Plans are still underway for upgrading all APNK-hosted Kete to version 1.3 of the software and Kete admin staff will be contacted shortly with proposed dates for the upgrade to take place.

APNK have also agreed to host a Kete User Group Meeting for the Christchurch/Canterbury region in the coming month to discuss future development of the product (and the funding thereof). We'll be inviting Kete admin staff to this day-long event in short order once details have been finalised.

Asset Refresh Update

More libraries got brand spanking new computing equipment last month with Greymouth, Westland, Waimakariri and Wairarapa libraries all receiving and successfully installing their new gear. Well done, guys. And we managed to get a little ahead of schedule this month so New Plymouth and Stratford libraries are also refreshed in the APNK department leaving only Hurunui as the last region to get new equipment this month.



Above—New PCs bound for Hurunui District Libraries having their software image installed.

All Go-Go for Thames

Greg will be heading to Thames-Coromandel District Libraries early this month to install the Go-Go PC reservation system at Thames Library, meet the locals and enjoy the scenery. He'll be the guy in the APNK t-shirt. Feel free to say hi.

Tackling Tech-speak #9: NAS

Many APNK sites have NAS devices. But what is a NAS and what does it do?

NAS stands for Network-Attached Storage and a NAS device is simply a piece of hardware that can both store information and can connect with other pieces of hardware that are on the same network. So the NAS can communicate with the APNK PCs or scanner if you have one. Clever, huh?

In an APNK set-up a NAS can be used to store scanned images, and then these can be accessed from one of the PCs (there's a scan-to-PC folder on the desktop for easy access).

We also use the NAS when PCs need software updates. APNK tech staff can remotely access each NAS from our Christchurch HQ, copy files into it, and then have this software install on all of the machines in that location. NAS devices don't usually fail but may occasionally need to be restarted in the event of a power cut.

There are a couple of different models of NAS device employed at APNK sites but all are roughly the size of a toaster and should have People's Network stickers on them.



Above—A line of boxy NAS devices.

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