



Paul Reynolds and the People's Network

It is with great sadness that I write to honour the work that Paul did during his time on the Governance Group of the Aotearoa People's Network Kaharoa. Paul died suddenly on Sunday 23 May following a very short illness. Just over a week earlier on the 14th May, Paul had been his usual constructive, challenging and endearing self at the Governance Group strategy meeting in Christchurch (see picture below). Yes, he looked tired and had a bit of a limp but no-one would have thought in less than 10 days he would not be with us.

Paul was a great supporter of the APNK and was a strong advocate for its being funded by government to ensure that everyone had access to the digital tools so crucial in the 21st century. He saw public libraries as natural community and public spaces and wanted to see the reach and the scope of APNK extended so that all public libraries were part of this network. At the last meeting he advocated strongly for:

- A reaffirmation from central government that the APNK is an ongoing element in the ongoing NZ digital strategy
- Develop strong partnerships with Maori
- Extend the content offer from the home screen of every APNK terminal - two way, link with schools through KAREN

Both at a personal and institutional level we will miss Paul greatly. On behalf of the Governance Group and APNK community at large we offer our support to Helen Smith his partner and his family at their terrible loss.

Sue Sutherland (Director, National Digital Library)



learn@APNK

Progress is continuing on APNK's computing skills package for partner library staff, learn@APNK.

The programme will involve partner library staff acting as 'guides' who will be on hand to lend support and advice to learners as they make their way through the five week course. It will cover basics like uploading images and browser use as well as including some Web 2.0 modules, in addition learners will receive a course booklet and USB drive. A training day aka 'Guides' Big Day Out' is planned for later this month at APNK HQ and a couple of weeks after that the first batch of lucky learners (Wave 1) will begin the programme.

More information about the programme and requests for volunteer learners will be forwarded to library managers closer to the time.

New on our website—Check out our [Rangiora case study](#)

Wanganui hits 100,000 APNK sessions

May saw Wanganui District Library hit a milestone with 100,000 APNK sessions reached.

Since joining APNK, staff at Wanganui District Libraries Davis Central City, Alexander Heritage & Research, and Gonville branches have kept tallies of customers using PCs and wifi, and in the last year have had their online wifi stats to consult. The result being that the grand total of 100,000 was reached. That's a lot of connectivity for the community in only two years.

Cr Sue Westwood had this to say about the milestone -

Computers are now an essential part of many people's lives. The library is currently seeing about 1750 people a week come in and use the free computer and internet services. It is essential that we continue to be able to support those users and meet the demand, as well as keep developing our other innovative computer based initiatives.

Are other libraries keeping stats like this? Are you about to reach a milestone too? We'd love to hear about it.



Act Locally 2010

Keiran and Moata presented to a receptive audience at this year's Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities which took place in Auckland late last month.



View from the podium

This joint Australia/New Zealand conference is concerned with increasing accessibility to information to those with visual impairment. The conference had the theme "think globally, act locally". Their presentation looked at the process by which APNK machines have been installed with accessibility software, specifically, NVDA (Non Visual Desktop Access). Their session was very well received and included a challenge for public libraries and other institutions to provide tools like NVDA on their computers.

For more information on this and other sessions, visit the conference blog <http://roundtable2010.wordpress.com/>.

Helpdesk Tip

The Department of Internal Affairs has recently launched a [scam-alert web page](#) to notify the public about 'real-time' scam threats. You can find out more about keeping safe on the net by checking our FAQs:

- <http://www.aotearoapeoplesnetwork.info/faq/safety>
- <http://www.aotearoapeoplesnetwork.info/faq/online-safety>

At the end of their session customers should restart the computer to ensure any personal info is wiped from the drive.

Recent customer feedback via our website...

This service is fantastic. We just moved to Rangiora and are waiting for broadband to be installed at home. Until that time the library allows [sic] us to keep in touch via email with family and friends

The votes are in...

Our [Community of Practice](#) poll asked you to choose the next partner library to grace the APNK website homepage and by an overwhelming majority you chose Amberley Library, Hurunui District. This picture taken their APNK install in 2008 will be appearing on our website very soon.



GO-GO for Rodney Libraries. Any more?

Late last month Troy and Keiran ventured north to the Rodney district to install the GO-GO PC Control System at their seven branch libraries. The installation went smoothly and staff have provided positive feedback on the effect having a PC reservation system has had at their libraries. A popular (with staff!) feature is the computer shut-down 5 minutes before library closing ensuring customers leave the library in a timely manner. As the new financial year approaches, APNK are keen on knowing whether other partner library networks will be interested in having GO-GO installed in the coming year. If you are considering taking up the GO-GO option, or would like further information, please contact APNK at peoples.network@natlib.govt.nz

Patea kids meet author via Video Conferencing

Talking to a successful author about how they write is a great way of getting kids excited about writing, but what if the author in question is in a different part of the country? Last month kids from Linwood Intermediate sat in with author Tania Roxburgh at The National Library in Christchurch as she talked and answered questions about writing. Using video conferencing technology Tania also communicated with Burnside High School pupils at their school library (also in Christchurch), as well as kids from Patea Area School using APNK at Patea Library (and specifically the KAREN video conferencing bridge). Says Dyane Hosler, Curriculum Services Team Leader, National Library, Christchurch - *This was a very successful event both for the students, the author and National Library staff in realising the benefits of using this technology to reach a wide audience in the promotion of literacy.*

Winner of this month's free APNK t-shirt is...

Michael Parry from **Dannevirke**. Congratulations!

For your chance to be in to win one these stylish and highly desirable fashion items, login to the [Community of Practice](#) (if you work at an APNK partner library, just drop us an email and we'll sign you up if you're not a member already), post a comment, join a discussion (or start one) and you'll go in the monthly draw.



Contact us: peoples.network@natlib.govt.nz

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