From The Manager's Desk

An update from APNK Manager Chris McClement

Depending on who you talked to at LIANZA Conference 2011 public libraries are either doomed, managing to stay relevant, or leading communities into the digital future. Personally, I think we are somewhere between relevance and leadership, and after this year's conference, I hope that we'll be heading firmly in the direction of re-imagining, re-inventing and re-allocating public libraries.

In Christchurch APNK is getting ready to move into our new home at Cavendish Business Park in Redwood. This is going to be a big adjustment for us. We'll be going from 24m^2 of space to about 150m^2! Fortunately we are all about connecting communities with technology, so I am sure we will be able to stay in touch with each other, despite the vast amounts of space we'll have to work in.

Above—The wide, open spaces of Cavendish Business Park await the APNK team.

And work we shall. The team is gearing up production to restart deployments to new members of the APNK network. By the end of the year we should be able to welcome Ashburton, Invercargill, Palmerston North and Taupō to the APNK family. At the same time Kōtui is quietly spreading across the nation. Already live in Marlborough, New Plymouth and Taupō, go live in Nelson is happening as I write; before the end of the year we'll add Tasman.

Its an exciting time to be at the APNK, and to be in New Zealand - go the All Blacks (didn't think I wouldn't mention the World Champions, did you?)!

Recent customer feedback

"timaru library is awesome for have so many computers ive never had to wait for a computer =D two thumbs up"

Andrea, Timaru Library, 3 November 2011

"Thank you Proctor library for your internet access. It helped me in a real moment of need."

Atarangi, Kerikeri Library, 12 October 2011

Wifi and QR codes at Waipukurau

We love this photo taken at Waipukurau Library in Central Hawke's Bay District. In it a young library customer uses both books and wifi Internet for a little after school study...all at a table plastered in QR codes that lead to library sites.
It's a great example of how both analogue and digital resources can interact in a public library environment. (Curious about QR codes? Check out "Tackling tech-speak". pg 2)

Above—Wifi and books both in demand at Waipukurau Library

Happy APNK birthday to...

Timaru District, Nelson City and Mackenzie District Libraries who all reach the three year milestone in November.
This month we also celebrate the 4th anniversary of our very first library install at Kawerau!

Right—The very first APNK customer, Pat Te Pou, Kawerau Public Library, 23 November 2007.
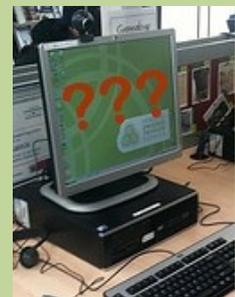
FAQs—They're here to help!

The APNK FAQs are your Swiss army knife and roll of duct tape when you need to "MacGyver" a tech issue that might come up when using the APNK service. Need to save a file, resize a photo or print via wifi? It's all there.

Some FAQs are so handy we advise library staff to have printed out copies of these on hand for customers. The wifi troubleshooting guide is particularly useful.

Our recommendation? Get this URL tattooed on your arm (or failing that, perhaps bookmark or favourite it?) **www.aotearoapeoplesnetwork.info/faq**

Above—Answers to frequently asked questions are a click away!

Aotearoa People's Network Kaharoa on Aotea

It is with no small measure of pride that the APNK can claim a presence on all three of New Zealand's main islands with the North, South and Stewart Islands all having their own "APNK outposts". This week we extend our reach even further when Keiran travels to Aotea-Great Barrier Island in the Hauraki gulf to install 2 PCs, a printer and wifi hotspot. You might not be aware of it but Great Barrier Island is part of Auckland City (it's super!) and we're pleased that their council has chosen to extend the free APNK service to island residents.

Above—Great Barrier Island, the latest APNK "outpost".

Photo by andy_kyte_uk

Since February's earthquakes we've had to scale back operations while in temporary accommodation so this is the first new library we've added to the network in nearly a year. It's quite a step forward for us and we're happy to be getting back into the swing of things.

All going well, we should be have another three library networks added by the end of the year, though we expect Great Barrier Island Library will be the only one that runs on generator power!

More Kōtui libraries go live

It began in Marlborough but Kōtui staff are definitely not resting on their laurels with regards to getting libraries onto the Kōtui shared library service.

Kōtui is now live in Marlborough, New Plymouth, Taupō and Nelson Libraries.

The coming month will see Tasman District Libraries come on board and post-school holidays there'll be another go live at libraries in the Waimakariri District. That's

And we've had good feedback from libraries where the service has been up and running, like Marlborough,

"It's great to have the OPAC Discovery facility and to see search results include data from the databases we subscribe to through EPIC. This seamless operation is something we have wanted for a long time to maximise the use of the EPIC suite."

Glenn Webster, Manager, Marlborough District Libraries

For more information on Kōtui, visit www.kōtui.org.nz
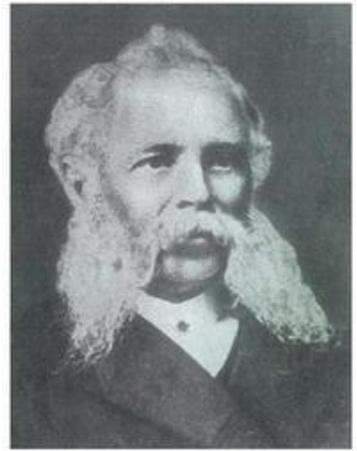
Movember treasures from the Kete

Movember is upon us again and while this usually involves the menfolk growing thatches of facial hair for charity, nobody at APNK HQ was keen...so we've decided to go a slightly different way.

Every day in November we'll be tweeting a different moustache image from APNK hosted Kete. There certainly are some excellent examples in the historical images that have been digitised and uploaded all around the country.

If you've got a particular favourite you'd like to see given the spotlight, let us know! Follow our Twitter stream for Kete treasures, library tech news and more!

http://twitter.com/PeepsNetwork

Above—Isaac Richmond Vialou, Hamilton Mayor 1878-1879...and latterday star of Movember.

(from Kete Hamilton, uploaded by harryheritage)

Tackling Tech-speak #3: "QR codes"

QR codes are popping up in more and more places, but what exactly are these black and white squares filled with seemingly random geometric shapes?

QR stands for "quick response" and the squares are matrix barcodes, a bit like the ones you find on products at the supermarket but which carry more information and can still be decoded at high speed (hence "quick response").

QR codes can carry text or numeric Information. Lately they're being used as a way of connecting smartphone users to material online.

Above–QR code that leads to the APNK FAQs page on our regional website.

Many smartphone users have apps on their phones that let them scan a QR code with the phone's camera. The app then interprets the code and if it finds it's a web address will open this page in the phone's browser.

QR codes often turn up on objects like posters and signs as a way of pointing people to further information on a company's website. In libraries they can be used to promote the library website, individual item records, or online competitions.

Many online "generators" make creating new customised codes easy and free.