From the Manager's Desk

An update from APNK Manager Chris McClement

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Upper Hutt into the APNK fold this month. Upper Hutt is the first library that took on Kōtui before taking on APNK. It's good to know that both services we provide can lead to the uptake of the other! I visited Upper Hutt's main library and was pleased to see the APNK PCs fill up very quickly after opening time.

Service Developement Co-ordinator, Wendy Horne also had some great stories to tell, like the kids using Skype to perform intra-pod communication in the Children's section! She also had a moment of alarm when all the web cams in the Children's section "disappeared". Fortunately APNK's high security solution (padlocks) meant that they hadn't actually disappeared, they'd simply been taken off the top of the monitors and placed on the desk beside the PC. Perhaps there is a budding Interior Designer who didn't like the "clean lines" of the monitors to be disrupted!

We are also quite pleased that Upper Hutt volunteered to be the guinea pig for our integration of GOGO into the Kōtui system. In the current test, library members can book a PC by scanning their library card, and guests can be issued with a temporary guest-pass to do the same thing. The aim is to be able to offer a completely self-service-based GOGO solution that will integrate with your libraries' Integrated Library System. We know how important it is to free up library staff from administrative duties, so we are quite excited that we are at the pilot phase of the integration project.

Coming up this month is Waimate's APNK implementation. This will be an opportunity for the newest member of our team, Bevan, to carry out an implementation on his own. Bevan has settled in well in every other aspect of his role so I expect things to go just as well at Waimate.

Waimate makes it 49 APNK partners - I wonder who will be number 50?

Recent customer feedback

Abu Mansaray | Invercargill | 20th September 2013
"I can't thank you enough for this free Internet Service we are enjoying here in Invercargill City Library. This time whenever I need Internet Service, I don't think of where to go but come straight here at the Library. Once again, thanks a lot."

rod | Upper-Hutt | 27th September 2013
"computers are easy to use now. staff at upperhutt great"

Upper Hutt now in the APNK fold

A hearty APNK "kia ora" to the staff and patrons of Upper Hutt City Library who officially became part of our network on 25 September.

Bevan and Keiran travelled north to install 26 public PCs, 3 GO-GO terminals, wifi equipment, and printers and were very grateful for all the help they received from staff there in particular, Wendy, Rhys and Steve.

Nearly 30 computers to install is a big job so thanks again for your assistance.

We've heard that Upper Hutt customers are enjoying the new equipment and love having the webcams and headsets.

Left–Upper Hutt City Library, now with free APNK Internet

Right–Upper Hutt Staff familiarise themselves with their new public computers.

Left–Upper Hutt's public PCs now have headsets and webcams and a PC reservation system.

More photos at http://www.flickr.com/apnk

Kōtui Updates

Of course the big news this month is that Tauranga City Libraries will be making the switch to Kōtui at the end of the month. Tauranga has four branch libraries and a mobile library bus and serves the largest population of any of our Kōtui partners. In fact, when Tauranga comes on board the combined population of regions served by Kōtui will be over three quarters of a million!

In preparation for the Tauranga go-live both Ruth and Susanna visited the Bay of Plenty last month and had a very successful and productive visit and have every expectation of a smooth transition to Kōtui on 31 October.

Kōtui Members Meeting

Representatives from Kōtui member libraries will meet next month in Wellington on 8 November. At this annual gathering members meet to discuss future developments for the system, raise questions and share ideas.

Free wifi and public space

In our most recent blog post, we look at a recent white paper on the provision in Australia of free municipal wifi in public spaces. Do some of the conclusions reached apply to wifi in public libraries?
See http://www.aotearoapeoplesnetwork.org/content/free-wi-fi-and-public-space

Now trialling self-service PC reservation

For some time our partner libraries have expressed a desire to have a self-service PC reservation option for managing APNK PC use. We're happy to say that we're on the way to providing this as a service to our partners as we are currently undertaking a trial at new install Upper Hutt City Library.

The system we're trialling allows patrons to use their library card number (or a guest pass) to log into an available PC if there is one, or to use a self-reservation station to book one if none are currently available.

This system means patrons don't have to go through a staff intermediary to make a reservation. It also avoids the problem of multiple bookings by people with similar names since each patron ID is unique.

The trial at Upper Hutt will continue for a month but libraries that are interested in having a self-service PC reservation option or would like more information are encouraged to enquire via peoples.network@dia.govt.nz

A-conferencing we will go

Going to a library-related conference in the next month? Keep your eyes peeled for a member of the APNK and Kōtui team.

During October APNK and Kōtui manager, Chris McClement will be attending LIANZA Conference in Hamilton.

If you'll be at Conference and want to chat about anything relating to APNK or Kōtui this would be an excellent opportunity to say hello. However it should be noted that Chris has shaved off his beard and if recent experience at Upper Hutt is anything to go by this makes him more difficult to recognise. So be alert for the clean-shaven version!

But before LIANZA kicks off our Senior Application Support Specialist, Susanna, will attend the Customers of SirsiDynix Australasia (COSA) Conference in Melbourne.

As our head Kōtui-boffin, Susanna will be learning more about possible future developments on offer by SirsiDynix, as well as mixing and mingling with other SirsiDynix customers (and possibly buying some shoes because, well, *Melbourne*).

Full steam ahead for Waimate

No rest for the wicked they say, and Bevan must have been very wicked indeed. Hot on the heels of installing Upper Hutt's APNK set-up, Bevan will be hitting the road with a boot full of gear next week when he heads to Waimate District where he'll install 3 PCs and wifi. Looking forward to having you in the APNK family, Waimate!

Above– Waimate's APNK equipment is all ready to go.

New Zealand libraries on Flickr

Do you or your library have a Flickr account? Have an awesome library photo or two? Te Ara—The Encyclopaedia of New Zealand are compiling a collection of photos of New Zealand libraries to create a slideshow for use in their entry on libraries. We've added some of our favourite library pictures. Perhaps you could contribute too?

See http://www.flickr.com/groups/2308145@N23/

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