

Work Raft Trust – an introduction

Work Raft Trust is a charitable trust established to provide a flexible and responsive approach to developing models and resources for community-based information and communications technology (ICT) projects. Its vision is that:

New Zealand will become a country where the full potential of information and communication technology is harnessed in pursuit of equitable and sustainable development.

Goals

The initial goals of Work Raft are:

1. To develop and deliver resources that will help community organisations throughout New Zealand establish successful initiatives utilising information and communication technology. These resources are packaged within a Framework for Accessing Community IT Solutions.
2. To establish and implement an "Eco Tech City" campaign in Waitakere City. This will entail driving the campaign's vision, working with community and local government groups, community consultation, project identification and management, and liaison with other active organisations and individuals.

Later goals will include active support for Framework resources, awareness raising, Group Support products, ICT in the Community advice, telework-related initiatives, and (possibly) Regional and National campaigns. Work Raft will also seek to identify and respond to additional community demands and interests as these are expressed.

Deliverables

For the Framework, the initial deliverable will be a comprehensive, modular workbook, freely available to all interested parties.

For Waitakere's Eco Tech City, the deliverables will be a 'campaign' comprising a responsive project framework and a proactive channel for involvement, multi-way communication and support.

Outcomes

The work of Work Raft will have a variety of outcomes, within specific communities, nationally and within Waitakere City:

- Higher numbers of cost-effective, sustainable ICT projects and initiatives
- Improved access to information, training, and development opportunities
- Enhanced civic participation and involvement in the democratic process
- Better understanding of the role ICT can play within the development of our society

These outcomes can also be expressed as more jobs, higher employment, more skilled people, sustainable communities and savings of more than \$500,000 (per community, per annum) in avoidable benefit payments.

The Trust

Work Raft relies on funding from partners and sponsors. It is set up as an active partner for any organisation that wants to achieve genuine outcomes with ICT-based initiatives – particularly in the field of sustainable, equitable development.

Such partners could include technology vendors and providers seeking to reach and develop new markets, community groups who share Work Raft's objectives or wish to benefit from its work, corporate bodies seeking innovative and effective sponsorship opportunities, and government organisations looking for practical assistance with policy implementation.

Aims

1. To work for the relief of poverty, the advancement of education, and the development of sustainable communities by ensuring disadvantaged groups have equitable and appropriate access to information and communication technology (ICT).
2. To proactively work across all sectors of society to encourage and support equitable and sustainable development based on the effective use of (ICT)
3. To responsively develop, deliver and support such tools as will make understanding, implementation, and use of ICT easier and more cost-effective
4. To work in partnership with such enterprises as express interest in developing and delivering appropriate ICT strategies and services where such work advances the other aims of the Trust
5. To do all this within a framework that recognises the need for an holistic approach that responds to the needs and opportunities of individuals, communities and society at large.

Note: Unlike some other organisations:

- Work Raft does not aim merely to discuss and perhaps pilot new ideas: it actively works to package identified 'best practice' and effectively support it within interested communities.
- Work Raft does not seek to drive debate or agitate on technology issues: it focuses on developing, implementing and supporting practical tools, to deliver tangible benefits.
- Work Raft does not believe that technology on its own is 'the answer': a holistic approach that recognises the role of broad consultation, the need for training and understanding, and the power of existing communities, networks and tools is essential for equitable development.

People

Work Raft is uniquely positioned to deliver against its objectives. The founding trustees bring many years of practical business, academic, and community experience. They are:

Bevis England: Executive Trustee for Work Raft, Director of Telework New Zealand, and Ambassador for Information Technology in Waitakere City. Bevis combines a long history of social and voluntary work with an extensive background in technology, journalism and public relations, and business consulting. In the 'community ICT' field he has worked with local governments, Maori organisations, and other community groups.

Andy Williamson: Chair of Waitakere e-Democracy Group (WeDG), Principal of Wairua Consulting, Director of iE3 Group Limited, and Inaugural Director of UNITEC's Centre for Information Technology Research (CITRUS). Andy has a strong background in strategy development, technology planning and development, and academic research and teaching. An active member of his community, Andy also has a strong interest in community informatics and the social impact of technology.

Greg Presland: Solicitor, and Waitakere City Councillor.

All three founding trustees are also members of Waitakere City Council's Eco Tech Advisory Group.

Work Raft

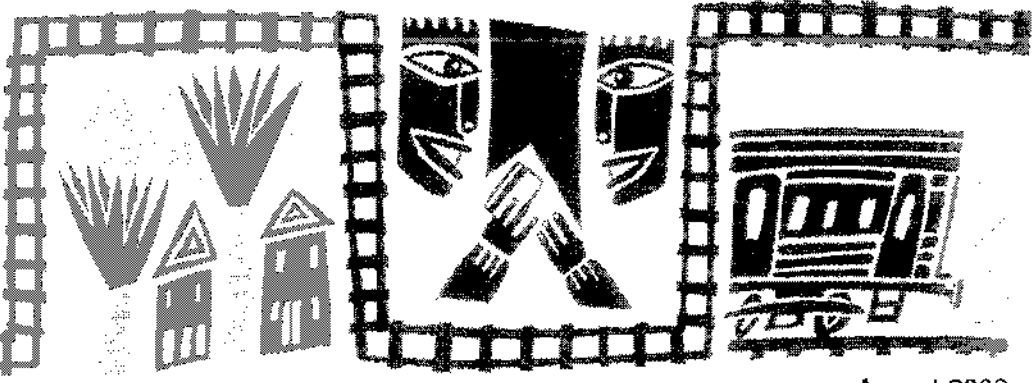
A survival tool on the waves of change ... A support in a fluid environment

A flexible platform assembled from readily available components

Box 60-469, Titirangi, Waitakere City

0-9-811 8024

workraft@telework.co.nz



August 2003



New Lynn is to become the host of the newest City event – the Waitakere Moon Festival.

To be held in and around the New Lynn Community Centre on September 5 and 6, the Moon Festival is based on the ancient 'Autumn Harvest' festival celebrated in countries like China, Japan, Vietnam and Korea. In China the festival is celebrated on the 11 September, which is in autumn in the northern hemisphere. To make the festival relevant to Asians here in New Zealand, the first weekend in September seemed the most appropriate for the celebration. In New Zealand the beginning of spring is good cause for celebration.

The two free days of fun and entertainment are an opportunity to celebrate diversity. It allows Asians to enrich the culture of their new home by sharing some of their own and it allows other New Zealanders to learn a little of their neighbours' cultures in a fun experience.

Waitakere Mayor, Bob Harvey says: "The 'Moon Festival' is the first festival of its kind in Waitakere City and a grand celebration of East meets West. It promises to be a fantastic occasion for everyone."

Sponsored by Waitakere City Council, the Cantonese Opera Society, Asia 2000 and local businesses, the Moon Festival will include a street parade, the official opening, exotic lanterns, Chinese Opera, dancing, martial arts, Chinese fireworks and a night market from 5-9pm on the Friday, with free Mooncakes for all.

The New Lynn Library will be offering Chinese face painting, Chinese lollies and storytelling 5-6pm. On Saturday 10am-4pm, a food and craft market, performances and displays, lion dancing, Japanese drums, mahjong, Cantonese opera, a tea ceremony, noodle making, and a Chinese chess competition.

Moon Festival ceremonies involving the viewing of the harvest moon begin in a number of Asian countries in the eighth month of the year. In China, this festival also celebrates the legend of the moon goddess, Chang Er, and is sometimes called the 'Mooncake Festival'. Mooncakes symbolise the gathering of friends and family and are offered to the gods for a good harvest. According to popular belief, the custom of eating mooncakes dates back to the 14th century.



Councillor Derek Battersby, Massey Community Board member Peter Chan and volunteers Claudia Gong and Lucy Xu with some of the decorations provided by Ningbo, Waitakere City's sister city in China.

