Getting Started

The following references have been selected to provide helpful information for communities wanting to get connected. The website addresses were correct at the time of going to press.

First stop

CommunityNet Aotearoa – an Internet resource designed to support communities throughout Aotearoa New Zealand. The website is an accessible gateway to the Internet for communities and members of community organisations. It features useful resources, news, links, a community noticeboard, and a guide to getting online. As a community website everyone is encouraged to contribute relevant information.

Website www.community.net.nz

Email information@community.net.nz

Getting online

There are dozens of books on getting online available. Two New Zealand books worth looking for are:

- SeniorNet tutors Mike Mike and Malcolm Bailey's *"Beginners' guide to the internet"* (2000)
- The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand User Education Librarian Virginia Earle's *"Searching the Web: a Smart Guide to Online Skills"* (1999)

Information about choosing an Internet Service Provider (ISP) and prices is online at the NZ Consumer website.

Website www.consumer.org.nz

The Internet Safety Kit is an online resource to help parents, schools, and community groups use the internet safely

Website www.netsafe.org.nz

Low cost recycled PCs are available to community groups from companies accredited by the Computer Access New Zealand Trust.

Website www canz org nz

Webwise is an easy to use Internet guide featuring tutorials, beginner guides, questions, commentaries and much more

Website www bbc co uk/webwise

Learn the Net – how-to guides, animated tutorials, comprehensive glossary and news

Website www learnthenet.com

Advice and support for non-profits

Techsoup – a US based website featuring information about everything IT tailored to non-profit organisations.

Website www.techsoup org

Making the Net Work – resources, guides and links to help those planning to get their organisation or neighbourhood online.

Website www.makingthenetwork org

Using email for community action

"Virtual Activist 2 0: Using Email for Outreach, Organizing, and Advocacy" is a detailed guide from Netaction, a US organisation dedicated to promoting use of the Internet for effective grassroots citizen action campaigns.

Website www netaction org/training

Refer to the following articles at Techsoup (www.techsoup.org): "An Introduction to Email Listservs and Internet Mailing Lists", "Using Email Effectively", and "Using Email as an Advocacy Tool".

Developing a website

Steps to successful use of the Internet are familiar from any community project: vision, plan, implement, monitor, evaluate, and revise. There are lots of general guides to developing a web presence (eg *Web Design for Dummies*, *Sam's Teach Yourself to Create Web Pages in 24 Hours*), and some specifically targeted at community organisations listed below.

Not every library will have these books, but if you can find them (try interloans) they are specifically targeted at voluntary and community groups:

- *The Nonprofit Guide to the Internet* by Robbin Zeff or 2nd Edition by Michael Johnston
- *Use and Shape the Internet: Women Connect's guide for women's and other voluntary and community organisations* by Margaret Page and Marion Scott, 1999, Community Development Foundation/ Library Association (www.cdf.org.uk)

There is lots of advice available online about developing websites. Have a look at the websites listed above: Webwise, Techsoup and Making the Net Work. Charity Village's section Online Training and Online Fundraising sections have some useful articles.

Website www charityvillage com/research/

The TrainAgain website offers free interactive tutorials to help you develop better web strategy, content, credibility and search results.

Website www.trainagain com

One of the most comprehensive guides for not-for-profit organisations available online is "Building an Effective Website: a Guide for Non-Profit Organisations".

Website www oxygenate com/web101