

MEDIA RELEASE
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Wellington Organisations Take Top Honours in National IT Awards

Three Wellington organisations are amongst the top award winners at this year's Computerworld Excellence Awards held in Auckland last Friday (June 25).

Te Taura Whiri i Te Reo Māori (the Maori Language Commission) won the Excellence in the Use of IT in Government Award for its Mātāpuna Dictionary System. Mātāpuna is the web-based open system the Maori Language Commission built for a Maori dictionary compiled by contributors from all over New Zealand. The dictionary is written entirely in Maori and is a first for an indigenous language. The judges were extremely impressed by the vision and commitment of the organisation both to its mission and to the way it has gone about implementing a system to create the dictionary: "Te Taura Whiri i Te Reo Māori's vision has resulted in an innovation use of technology to benefit New Zealand and the world."

A project that provides opportunities for low-income families to access IT previously unavailable to them won the Bang for the Buck Award. The Computers in Homes project provides recycled computers to families for their children to access educational resources from their homes. The original focus was to train parents in how to support their children with homework but it has produced the added benefit of renewed enthusiasm from parents who, after attending the training course and using the internet, have pursued education with new confidence.

The other Wellington-based winner is P&A Construction which won the award for Excellence in the Use of IT in a Small to Medium Enterprise. In conjunction with its software partners iMC2 and Webspeed, P&A Construction deployed dbonairtime® - a state-of-the-art mobile application, designed to provide real-time monitoring of a geographically spread workforce. P&A employees can enter timesheet data from anywhere via any mobile device, and the data is then available via the internet. The judges said that "P&A has shown true Kiwi innovation to deliver real financial benefits to the company".

The Computerworld Excellence Awards, now in their seventh year, honour notable achievements by IT professionals in such diverse sectors as government, education, small business and not-for-profit organisations.

Computerworld Excellence Awards project manager Anne Simpson said this year's awards attracted a wide range of entrants from community organisations to New Zealand's largest companies.

"The Awards are growing in prestige every year and *Computerworld* is delighted to be the means by which successful projects and the top performers amongst New Zealand's IT professionals are recognised and rewarded," said Ms Simpson.

"We thank all the entrants for their hard work and effort put into the submissions and all our award sponsors - whose contribution made the Awards a success. A special thank you goes to all our judges for their time and expertise in judging the entries."

The latest awards event was attended by nearly 500 guests including government ministers and industry leaders.

IDG Communications, publisher of *Computerworld*, initiated the awards seven years ago to recognise excellence in the IT sector. With strong sponsorship support from the IT vendor community, the awards have become a sought-after accolade, and the 2004 Computerworld Excellence Awards attracted entries from more than 130 organisations and companies.

A complete list of winners, and contacts, is attached below.

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For more information:

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<http://www.idg.net.nz/cwea>

2004 COMPUTERWORLD EXCELLENCE AWARDS WINNERS

Bang for the Buck

- **Computers in Homes:** This scheme provides opportunities for low-income families to access IT previously unavailable to them and focuses on IT as an effective educational tool. The original focus was to train parents in how to support their children with homework, however it has produced the added benefit of renewed enthusiasm from parents who, after attending the training course and using the internet, have pursued education with new confidence.

Contact: Di Das 04 463 5123 di.das@vuw.ac.nz

CIO of the Year – sponsored by Symantec

- **Garry Collings, Toll New Zealand:** Garry has supported and enhanced Toll's business, both through use of innovative technology, and also through clever improvements in business processes and in the reporting of information.

Contact: Garry Collings 09 270 5011 gcollings@tollnz.co.nz

e-Business of the Year

- **Foodstuffs for the Foodstuffs Exchange:** The Exchange is a collaborative e-commerce initiative among three Foodstuffs companies that minimises transactions costs for the company and its suppliers. The Exchange gives smaller suppliers a low cost/no cost e-commerce solution, while larger suppliers can use the B2B connectivity to automate their business processes and achieve significant savings.

Contact: Ana Connor 03 353 8697 aconnor@foodstuffs-si.co.nz

Excellence in the Use of IT for Business Intelligence

- **Vector, Auckland, for the Business Information Group:** The custom-made BI system developed by this group has allowed Vector to schedule maintenance work based on graphically presented historical data and network parts replacement on the basis of historical failure rates. This strong business intelligence environment has been provided at significantly less cost than traditional approaches.

Contact: Gareth Williams 09 978 7606 gareth.williams@vectornetworks.co.nz

Excellence in the Use of IT for Customer Service

- **New Zealand Automobile Association for the Road Comms project:** This system brings together the customer, the response centre and the roadside mobile patrol using closely integrated call centre technology, GIS, GPS and roadside communications. It has halved the number of abandoned calls, improved productivity by 6%, cut costly voice communications by 98% and enhanced service through faster response times.

Contact: Paul Wykes 09 966-9314 pwykes@nzaa.co.nz

Excellence in the Use of IT in Education: Primary and Secondary Schools

- Kelston Deaf Education Centre, Auckland, for its personalised media resources project: The CDs are used in teaching deaf children and include especially developed NZ sign language. Twenty have been produced so far and allow deaf children to see themselves and their peers, using their own language and in their own environment. They have opened up educational opportunities for students not always visible in the education system.

Contact: Phil Thomson 09 827 4859 phillipt@kdec.co.nz

Excellence in the Use of IT in Education: Tertiary, Community and Commercial

- New Plymouth District Council for the Taranaki Information Network: This project is managed by Puke Ariki which is a ground-breaking regional knowledge centre where library, museum and visitor information centre are integrated to offer a comprehensive suite of visitor experiences. TIN was created to make the rich resources of Puke Ariki available to the remote, rural schools and libraries of Taranaki.

Contact: Simon Pickford 06 759 0863 pickfords@npdc.govt.nz

Excellence in the Use of IT in Government – sponsored by Unisys

- Te Taura Whiri i Te Reo Māori (Maori Language Commission) for the Mātāpuna Dictionary System: Mātāpuna is the web-based open source system MLC has built for a Māori dictionary being compiled by contributors from all over New Zealand. The dictionary is written entirely in Māori and is a first for an indigenous language. Mātāpuna has been made available under general public licence, so that other groups may use it for their own languages.

Contact: Sharon Armstrong 04 471 6732 sharon@tetaurawhiri.govt.nz

Excellence in the Use of IT for a Mobile Workforce

- New Zealand Automobile Association for Road Comms: This system brings together the customer, the response centre and the roadside mobile patrol using closely integrated call centre technology, GIS, GPS and roadside communications. It has halved the number of abandoned calls, improved productivity by 6%, cut costly voice communications by 98% and enhanced service through faster response times.

Contact: Paul Wykes 09 966-9314 pwynes@nzaa.co.nz

Excellence in the Use of IT in a Not-for-Profit Organisation – sponsored by Westpac

- Carers New Zealand: This group provides information, advocacy and support to caregivers who look after sick, frail or disabled family members. Using technology for the dissemination of vast amount of information and the links to relevant support organisation frameworks within New Zealand, has enabled the sharing of experience and knowledge amongst a needy community.

Contact: Laurie Hilsgen 09 406 0412 info@carers.net.nz

- Horowhenua Library Trust: Koha, reputedly the world's first open source library management software, was developed to meet the need to transfer large amounts of information between parties within New Zealand and globally and to structure the information to be globally accessible. The ease of access to the knowledge base created through this initiative and its ability to be reached by all the people of the Horowhenua, is improving the intellectual wealth of the region.

Contact: Rosalie Blake 06 368 1953 rosalie@library.org.nz

Excellence in the Use of IT in a Small to Medium Enterprise – sponsored by Microsoft

- P&A Construction, Wellington: P&A can enter timesheet data from anywhere via any mobile device, and the data is then available via the internet. P&A project managers can also update each other with new information submitted via mobile handsets. The project has improved timesheet workflow considerably.

Contact: Phil Stewart 04 382 8917 phil@paconstruction.biz

Most Successful Project Implementation of the Year – sponsored by BearingPoint

- Broadcast Communications Ltd for EXTEND: Project Ceres implemented the EXTEND network to deliver broadband access and voice services to rural and provincial New Zealand. The project met or exceeded every objective in the project charter and delivered in full, on time, and within budget.

Contact: Matt Bostwick 09 916 6476 matt.bostwick@bclnz.com

Overall Excellence in the Use of IT – sponsored by IBM

- Toll Tranz Link, Auckland, for the EVS project: Their vision was to take the company from the Stone Age to Star Wars”, with IT playing the leading role. To realise this vision the company developed its own software system and for a fraction of the cost it previously paid on annual maintenance alone. Key processes have been automated, so that freight traffic is tracked door to door and it now has a customer satisfaction rating that others envy.

Contact: Greg Miller 09 270 5178 gregm@tranzlink.co.nz

Technology Innovator of the Year – sponsored by Gen-i

- iVistra, Auckland, for the Enterprise Visibility System: EVS visualises a business’s key performance indicators updated from real-time tracking of vehicles and commodities, linked by wireless technologies, to information drawn from the enterprise management information system. Mission-critical events are just as accessible to the loading dock as they are to the executive suite so that employees can see and understand the systems and processes that drive their success.

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