

# Daily Chronicle



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## VENICE here we come!



Two of the powerhouses behind the award-winning community-built digital library project Kete Horowhenua are about to embark on the trip of a lifetime. Project manager Jo Ransom and content manager Pippa Coard are to attend the World Summit Awards in Venice where Kete Horowhenua is set to be held up as an example to the world. **Full story page 3**

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■ Kete Horowhenua

# Set for mention on world stage

By Frankie Webb  
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Award-winning community built digital library Kete Horowhenua has received a special mention at the World Summit Awards in Venice.

Kete project manager Jo Ransom intends to sacrifice all and be there when Horowhenua Library Trusts Kete Horowhenua has its special mention.

"I'm prepared to pay my own way if I have to," Ms Ransom said.

"I can't afford it, but it's important to go."

"Whatever happens, I've got to be there," she said.

Ms Ransom has been invited to address some of the world's top in digital strategy at the WSA in Venice.

It's not so easy to drop everything and be on a plane to Venice by October 28 when you have a household with four children to run.

"As soon as the announcement was made that Kete was in for a special mention, a fellow worker offered to move into my house and care for the kids so I could go," Ms Ransom said.

"My family said I have to go, I'm so overwhelmed by it all."

The announcement came out of the blue for Ms Ransom.

"We never nominated for the WSA," said content manager Pippa Coard.

"Apparently someone in Wellington did, we don't actually know who it was."

Ms Coard, who as a volunteer has put in thousands of hours to the project, intends to make the trip to Venice too.

Getting the two women to Venice will cost \$15,000.

"We're going to stay at the cheapest accommodation," Ms Ransom said.

"It's not a holiday, we're there for Kete."

Despite short notice, central government has provided some funding towards getting the duo to their destination.

"Because this is acknowledgement of Kete on a national rather than local level we have sought funding outside the local community," head of libraries Rosalie Blake said.

"Some commercial sponsors have come to the party and we're really hoping Pippa and Jo won't have to dip into their own pockets at all."

The women will attend a conference in Venice held prior to the awards gala on November 5.

Last month Kete Horowhenua won the 3M Award for Innovation in Libraries.

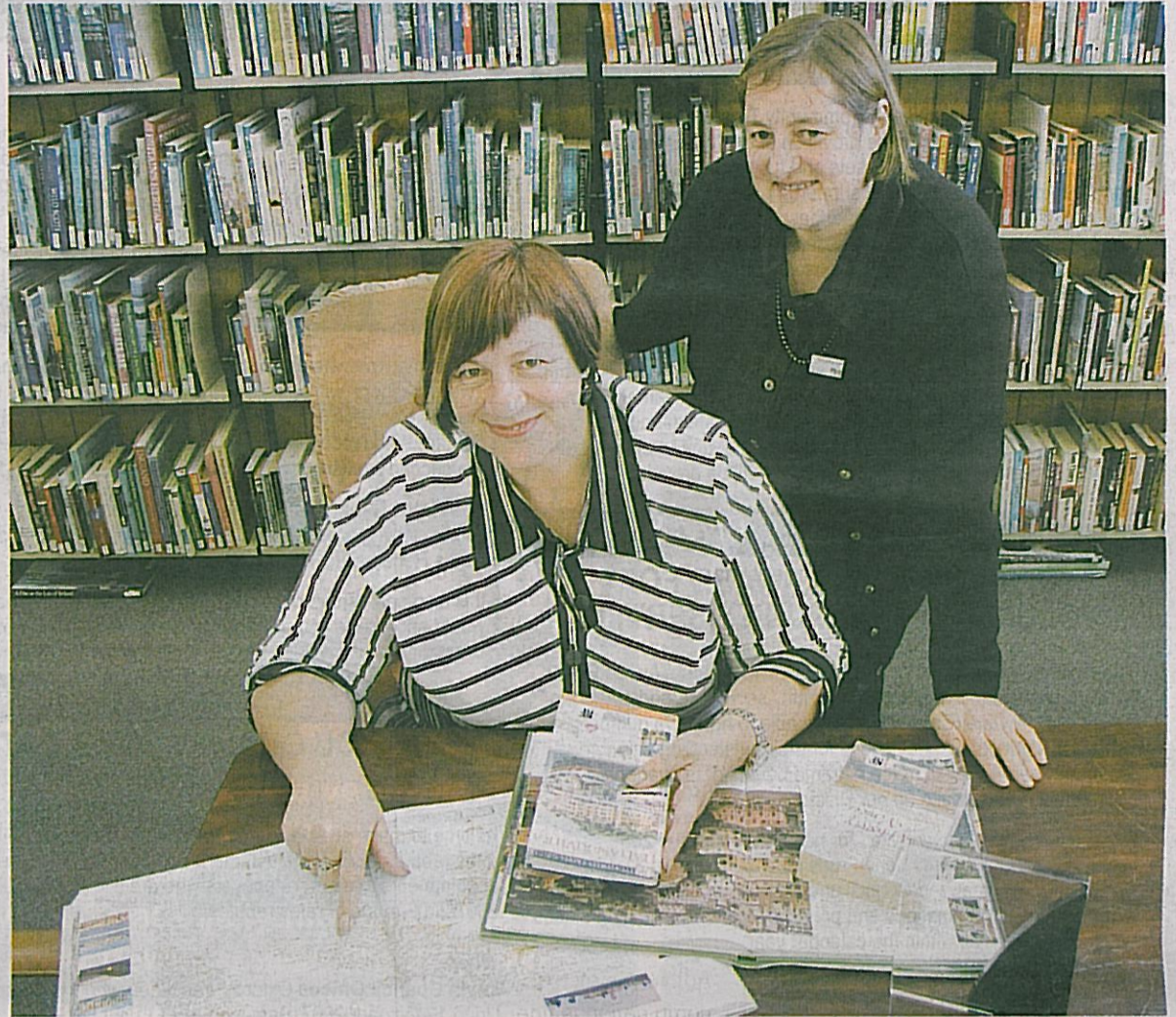
## What is Kete Horowhenua?

Kete is a web tool for a community-built digital archive of related material and although initiated with Horowhenua information, can be used by any community anywhere in the world. A kete (or basket) of topics may be related geographically, by subject, by source or in any other way.

Kete enables people with little computer experience to share their stories and songs and memories and photos.

It has been designed to be easily downloaded and configured by a layman.

It is a world first designed and created by members of the Horowhenua Library Trust.



Kete Horowhenua project manager Jo Ransom, left, and content manager Pippa Coard, are going to Venice to receive a special mention for the Kete Horowhenua project.

## What is the WSA?

The World Summit Award is a global initiative to select and promote the world's best e-content. It was started in 2003 in the framework of the United Nations' World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). 168 countries are actively involved in WSA.

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