

# Internet innovation wins award for Horowhenua Library Trust

An interactive website with a strong emphasis on the Horowhenua District and its people has edged out the National Library of New Zealand and the University of Auckland to win a national award for ground-breaking innovation for the second time.

The Horowhenua Library Trust won the prestigious 2007 3M Award for Innovation in Libraries in Rotorua recently for its Kete Horowhenua project.

The 3M trophy and prize is awarded each year for a project which shows original thinking in solving a library problem. Judging is by both a panel of experts and by popular vote of association members, with marks given not only for an innovative solution but also for a development which can be applied to other libraries. Head of Libraries Rosalie Blake said Kete Horowhenua uses very new technologies and she was quietly confident at the awards night.

"We thought we had a good chance. Kete is about the inter-relationship with users and how they can use the site to tell their stories. The award was for ground-breaking work on Kete and the availability to the wider community."

Kete Horowhenua is an online do-it-yourself framework on which to build an archive and gallery. It is designed so that anyone can enter data into from any computer on the internet, whether from home, work, or in the library.

Kete holds stories, photographs, audio and video clips. Anything that can be recorded digitally and is relevant to the Horowhenua district can be entered.

"It's the build-your-own archive aspect which is innovative, and the range of material which can be included.

"Step-by-step instructions help people arrange material into topics, and link related material together," Ms Blake said.

In 2000, the Horowhenua Library Trust won the same award for Koha, an integrated library system used for book cataloguing, circulation, and membership. Though it has not been



Deputy Head of Libraries Jo Ransom with the 3M award

implemented widely in New Zealand, it is believed thousands of libraries overseas use the Koha system.

Ms Blake said the Trust became the first library to win two 3M awards for Innovation in Libraries.

"The Trust has won several awards previously for its Koha software, and it was a good demonstration that we can continue to produce excellence."

(Website: [www.horowhenua.kete.net.nz](http://www.horowhenua.kete.net.nz)).

## Council appoints graffiti-buster

### Policeman well-suited to anti-graffiti work

North Shore City Council has shown it is serious about wiping out tagging by appointing Bruce Wood to the new role of graffiti prevention co-ordinator.

Senior Sergeant Wood, as he is now, is to join the council this month, following a distinguished 42-year police career.

Announcing the appointment, North Shore City's environmental protection team leader, Warwick Robertson, says recruiting Mr Wood is a coup for a city committed to delivering on its Safe City status recently bestowed by the World Health Organisation.

"As our frontline resource, Bruce will work alongside regional graffiti prevention experts on fighting back against the scourge of tagging," says Mr Robertson, himself a former police officer.

For the last 10 years Mr Wood has been the Waitemata Police District's Community Relations Manager, and primarily responsible for truancy, youth, family violence, community constables, events and North Harbour Stadium. His current employer is also stepping up its contribution to graffiti control by committing additional resources

to supporting the Tagger Tracker programme, due to be officially launched later this year.

Warwick Robertson says North Shore residents and business owners deserve to live and work in a city free of graffiti.

"We want our community to feel safe and proud of their surroundings. We also want to protect the public purse from endless paint outs and vandalism.

"We're taking positive steps to face this threat head on and with people like Bruce Wood on our team, we're well placed to succeed."