



LINKAGES

Recent Council Websites to go "Live"

The following Councils are the most recent to have their website developed as part of the LCC Program:

Shire of Tambellup – www.tambellup.wa.gov.au

Shire of Shark Bay – www.sharkbay.wa.gov.au

Shire of Irwin – www.irwin.wa.gov.au

Shire of Cuballing – www.cuballing.wa.gov.au

Shire of Woodanilling – www.woodanilling.wa.gov.au

The Shire of Tambellup has already had a great response to their website, reporting that quite a few people within the community have called the Council to find out more about services that they have read about on the new website.

New Virus Stopped Dead

As you may have heard by now, a new computer virus has been doing the rounds over the last few days. Keeping your virus definition files up to date is a constant challenge and if an infected email arrives before you've had time to react, it's too late!

The LCC Telecommunications subproject incorporates a mechanism to help minimise the threat posed by viruses; all inbound and outbound emails are virus scanned by a central server. Further, the central virus scanner has the definition files automatically updated every hour, on the hour.

As a specific example, the "W32/Palyh-A" virus was first seen at 8.13am on Monday 19th May 2003. An updated definition file offering protection was applied on the central server at 10:00am, trapping an infected message only 4 minutes later! In the first 24 hours, the central virus scanner stopped more than 80 infected messages sent to the existing LCC Telecommunications participants, including Shires of Beverley, Dandaragan, Chittering, Kellerberrin, as well as to the Association.

Whilst each participant has their own desktop virus scanning, the definition files are usually only updated once per day. Stopping infected emails before they hit a Council's network, as early as possible and with no active involvement by Council staff, is part of the value-adding which the LCC Telecommunications Managed Network Services delivers.

The central virus scanning is supported for all Councils participating in the LCC Telecommunications offering, regardless of whether they are using the central mail services, or have their own internal mail server (eg Microsoft Exchange). If you would like to discuss details

of the Telecommunications offering, please contact Matthew Hill, on (08) 9268 4569 or email mhill@skm.com.au.

Community Access to the Information Age

In early January 2003, the Association and the Commonwealth Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA) finalised arrangements to deliver the *Community Access to the Information Age* project.

The purpose of the NTN funded project was to install free public Internet access facilities to selected rural/remote library sites. Following a tender process to select a contractor, the rollout of hardware, software/services and training was completed in early May by WJ Moncrieff Pty Ltd.

Early indications from the 30 rural/remote public library sites (administered by 25 separate Local Governments) are that the facilities have been well received by library staff and residents.

For further information about the *Community Access to the Information Age* project please contact Joe Ripepi via email jripepi@walga.asn.au.

NOIE - ebusinessguide project launch

The National Office for the Information Economy (NOIE) is currently undertaking a project that will see the development of a website, information booklet and other resources that will provide practical information, tools and resources about e-business relevant to small businesses in Australia.

As part of the implementation of the project, a series of regional workshops have been organised to raise awareness about the *e-businessguide* and to provide relevant stakeholders with further information about the next steps for the project.

Attendance at the workshops will be by invitation only, however the WA Local Government Association is assisting NOIE in the development of the invitation list for the regional workshops. The workshops are aimed at Community and Business Development Officers/Managers or those with a similar business and community liaison role within Local Government. Representatives from other business and stakeholder groups will also be invited to attend the workshops.

If you would be interested in attending one of workshops, please contact Kylie Bartlett, on 9213 2016 or via email kbartlett@walga.asn.au for further details.