

## A New Year, A New Look...

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2010. Those big changes that we told you about at Christmas are well and truly underway.

As of the 1st of March Focus Computer Consultants officially became Focus Technology Group (NZ) Ltd. Since returning refreshed from their Christmas holiday's staff have been working hard at transforming our new look. You will see our new logo on all company stationery, and over the next few weeks staff will start appearing in Focus branded work wear.

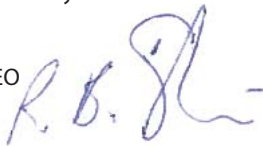
We undertook this rebranding after conducting a range of surveys in 2009 amongst existing and prospective customers. Our conclusions from these surveys have provided us with an opportunity to refresh both our name and our look.

As we have grown into a team of 28, that provides IT services across New Zealand and into Australia we felt it was time to rebrand the business with a name that encompassed all the products and services we provide - hence Focus Technology Group. We are also looking to introduce new products and services as our industry evolves, and the new name better positions us for this.

The ICT Industry doesn't sit still and we will continue to see some new technologies come to market. Technologies currently receiving attention are Virtualisation (running multiple servers located off site which can be accessed remotely); the release of the Apple iPad has re-energised the tablet market; and we are seeing more applications becoming web based as with the launch of Office 2010 (see below) which will have a web based component.

Some of these technologies are constrained by internet performance and will only gain true momentum when high speed, low cost internet is available to all regions - bring on any and all broadband initiatives!

Rod Sinclair CEO



## Coming Soon...



Microsoft have confirmed a June release of Office 2010. Dubbed 'Office 14', both the Home & Business, and Professional versions offer enhanced tools and features to help you run your business, connect with customers and organise your household more efficiently.



If you would like to know more or register to upgrade your office please email: [newsletter@focus.net.nz](mailto:newsletter@focus.net.nz) with 'Office 2010' in the subject line and we will keep you informed of Office 2010's progress.

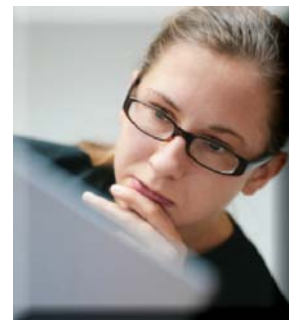
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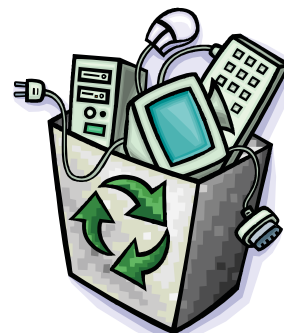
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## PC Recycling

Geoff Hinton recently attended a meeting of interested parties in regard to e-waste in the Southland region.



Geoff was able to report back that Southland Enterprises are now in a position to receive and recycle the full range of computer equipment. (There is a charge for monitors).

If you have any old hardware you wish to dispose of, you will find the recycling team at Southland Enterprises, 8 Kinloch Street, Invercargill.

For those of you who are interested in recycling polystyrene packaging, the news is they are working towards having a solution for this by the year end. We will keep you informed.

Geoff Hinton - Technical Director

## Tech Tips

We want our newsletter to be helpful and informative - so we have decided to include a regular 'help' section.

If you have a question that you'd like a quick answer for, please send these to [newsletter@focus.net.nz](mailto:newsletter@focus.net.nz) and we will endeavour to answer these in our next issue.

In this issue:-

Q "Is there a keyboard short cut I can use to minimise all the windows I have open and go to the desktop quickly without clicking on the show desktop icon?"

A Yes - you can use the Windows Key + M.



## Meet Matthew McDowell



February introduced Matthew McDowell to Focus as our latest Software Developer. Matthew has replaced Yi-Jing Chung who has left Focus to complete a Master's Degree in Computer Science.

Matthew will be working in our software division - Exosoft. He will be assisting in the development and maintenance of our software product range. You can check on our software products at [www.exosoft.net.nz](http://www.exosoft.net.nz).

Matthew has a Bachelor of Information Technology and has previously worked at developing the sportsunter.com website in Yamba Australia which is about an hour south of Byron Bay. Matt especially enjoyed the lifestyle in Yamba - particularly being able to turn up to work in t-shirt, shorts and jandals!!!

Matt is a keen sportsman who enjoys both the participation and social elements of football and has recently made the Southland Spirit Soccer team for 2010. A born and bred Southlander, Matt is the youngest of three children. With a Dad in broadcasting, a school teacher Mum and a passion for watching the Kiwis beat the Aussies at sport - Matt is fitting in well here at Focus.



## Our new look Queenstown...



We were quite comfortable in our Level 1, 5 Athol Street. We had got used to the burning heat in the summer and the fridge temperatures in winter. So were we sorry to leave? Nope!

D-Day was October 30 2009. The lovely, bright, clean AIR CONDITIONED, new offices were just across the road. The catch, they would not be ready for another couple of months, (more like three!), but thanks to Ngai Tahu Properties, they gave us level 2 to stay for awhile. We were considering how we were going to arrange the move and keep the office moving. Should we get a van? Removal men? No way, with Rod, Geoff and Stefan to the rescue who needed them!!

So, on Thursday 29 October the big shift began. I wonder what the people of Queenstown thought as they saw furniture, computers, shelves, boxes, wheeled one by one across the busy Ballarat Street, or the dusty, tired and worn out pushers. By Friday, assisted by a few beers, oops! sorry I mean coffee - the move was complete. We were in our temporary home!

Three months later the final move was done. Easy as pie this time, just down one level of stairs. Our new offices are grand. Spacious, clean and bright plus the AIR CONDITIONING, that works in compartments so I can be hot while the others are cool.

Rita Helvadjian - Queenstown

## MYOB EXO Conference

Andrew Whelan & Rod Sinclair recently attended the MYOB Enterprise Annual Conference. The conference was attended by MYOB EXO Partners from throughout New Zealand and Australia. Focus have recently been appointed as a MYOB Enterprise Platinum Partner - MYOB's highest level of partner attainment. We were also presented with awards for "Highest Sales Achievement NZ South Island 2009" and "NZ Innovative Award 2009".

The conference discussed the future directions for the EXO Products and was a great chance to share ideas and thoughts with the other EXO Partners.



Pictured Above: The South Island Sales Partner NZ & the Innovation Partner NZ Awards.  
Pictured Left: Focus CEO Rod Sinclair & MYOB EXO CEO Andrew Birch

## Quote

If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1000 MPG. - Bill Gates



*Wouldn't that be nice?*

## Gossip



Recently our very own Dave Bennie bit the bullet and proposed to partner Karen.

We wish Karen & Dave all the very best as they plan their future together.

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