

Mid-year report template for Community Projects and Internet Research - to be sent to gertrud@internetcz.net.nz on the date specified in your contract

Grant reference number:	PRS2201600006
Name of recipient and contact details	<i>Corrina Gestro-Best; 03 755 8700; P O Box 264, Hokitika</i>
Name of organisation (if applicable)	Westland Rural Education Activities Programmes Inc. (WestREAP)
Title of project/research	Community Project
Amount of funding received	\$35,086.50
<i>Budget details</i>	<p>Budget with expenditure to date Attached</p> <p><i>Have you achieved what you expected to achieve with this spend? (If "No", please provide more details)</i></p> <p>No. We achieved more than we expected to with this spend, there was more in-kind contribution from all parties than we anticipated. There were unanticipated issues with weather conditions around the Karangarua Range during the time we needed to be completing the mountain-top installation. This impacted on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of helicopter flights needed to get up and down the mountain. Men were trapped up there for some hours during one trip, they were forced to move on foot to an alternative landing point and had to come down without their tools and equipment after a 'white-out' prevented the helicopter from reaching them – conditions were such that they were unable to walk out. • There were also 2 attempts to get a truckload of concrete prepared and brought to the base site which had to be dumped because they couldn't get it up the mountain. (One of those occasions was written off as the concrete service had missed the timeframe they agreed to so there was no invoice for payment, the Runanga paid for the second load that was dumped). • Weather conditions caused the initial installation team to travel home and come back at a later date to complete the install as unexpected weather prevented the work to continue – there was a weather report indicating that the adverse conditions would continue for two weeks, they couldn't wait that long and had to return to Wairoa to other work and reschedule their plan to return. (WiFi Connect took that travel cost on themselves) <p><i>Please account for any areas of overspend or underspend.</i></p> <p>The expenditure of funds received to date is as expected. There is no under or overspend of funding allocated.</p>

	<p><i>How far along your timeline are you? Are there any significant changes to your timeline?</i></p> <p>We anticipated that the internet feed from the school to the towers and then the households would be running in accordance with the understanding that all schools including Fox Primary had access to the broadband rollout to schools. We found in trying to apply that, that the school broadband service was not complete. “Schools as digital community hubs: A report on governance, technology and commercial options: by 2020 Communications Trust, Supported by InternetNZ, February 2014, as stated on page 8 of the report: “Chorus is required to provide a 100M/100M fibre connection to rural schools (except for around 90 schools that will receive wireless connections). Retail Service Providers (RSPs) who provide internet services are able to purchase the backhaul fibre connection from a school to the nearest point-of-presence where Chorus has a minimum of two RSP interconnect agreements” – Fox Primary School is not one of the 90 exceptions.”</p> <p>We have discovered in doing this work, that the internet installation to the School initially, has never progressed beyond that which was required for running Schoolzone in the Fox School community. At the time of completing the installation, we found there was no port available at the school to run the wifi to the transmitters and receivers. MoE were quickly on-board with WiFi Connect and were able to instruct to Chorus to complete the work to enable the backhaul feed, at no extra charge to WiFi Connect or the project (initially, Chorus had quoted a cost of \$5000 to complete the work ‘within 6 months’) and to do the work ‘immediately’. Given the availability of qualified technicians on the West Coast, Chorus has given a tentative date of the 17 February when the work will be completed. That date has passed and the work is not completed as promised – we’re ‘waiting for Chorus’. We understand that work on an external cabinet required to connect the feed to the school and therefore to our transmitter, was completed on the 17 February and that Chorus has now ‘booked a technician’ to complete the feed from the cabinet to the school. In the meantime, MoE has allowed some residents in Bruce Bay access to the Schoolzone service plus the community centre and Marae where others in the community can access the internet for free until they are able to be connected at home.</p> <p>We have anticipated that the last part of the work to ‘tweak’ the transmitters and receivers when the true feed is completed and to sign off on every resident who has registered; that they have secure and reliable internet available in their home, will be completed by the 10 March Chorus have not completed the work required and have informed the WiFi Connect team that they ‘may’ be complete in two weeks. The MoE are currently pursuing the matter with the National office.</p>
Achievements to date	<p><i>Please outline your positive outcomes</i></p> <p>Installation of Equipment (Receivers, Transmitters and Routers are all in place Bruce Bay Community Centre</p>

	<p>Te Tauraka Waka a Maui 4 Bruce Bay Businesses 25 Households Are all connected</p> <p>Further negotiation to complete an installation of equipment at a new Power Station being built around Fox (in the Cook Saddle area) that will deliver power, wifi and cellular service to those parts of the Fox community, farms and isolated communities that we were not able to include in the connection to Karangarua Range. The additional work in is progress now to be completed along with the final launch of the WiFi feed from Fox Primary School through the whole area.</p> <p>The additional cost of this developmental phase of the project is undertaken in a new partnership between WiFi Connect, Te Runanga o Makaawhio and the company building the Power Station. It backs on to the Power Station company need to have monitoring strategies in place for the station which coincided with a very small part of the region that couldn't 'see' the Karangarua Ridge tower. This is part of the process of moving the business to the Runanga at the completion of our project. Completion will strengthen the current project and form the basis for the next phase on the West Coast which will connect Franz Josef to Ross. However, this work has now stalled as Westpower have approached WiFi Connect with an expectation of a fee for use of the unused poles) they have in place –(without power supply) the fee is more than double the annual fee anywhere else in the country with the power supply, in addition WiFi Connect would also need to include solar power units, the cost would be prohibitive for the number of households and businesses and would be back at the current fee. The local team are now sourcing poles from elsewhere, rental from Westpower to house and maintain their monitoring equipment within WiFi Connects network will cover the outlay required.</p> <p>WiFi Connect with Te Runanga o Makaawhio will begin to walk through a process of investment partnership with Development West Coast to achieve this phase of delivery to South Westland. The objective is to deliver <u>affordable</u> internet to all families where current planning is still with broadband fibre options that have a costly and restrictive outcome for communities. The point of difference will be to provide a training base for local people to learn all aspects of the service provision, marketing, building and administration. This is something the multi-national corporates don't have the capacity to do.</p>
<p>Difficulties to date</p>	<p><i>Please outline any difficulties you've had so far and how you're managing them</i></p> <p>The difficulties we've had to date have related solely to inclement weather conditions that have prevented access to the 'high sites' at times. We've had men sitting waiting for weather to clear where they are conscious that they have equally demanding work waiting for them back in the North Island where the weather was fine – frustrating!</p>

	<p>We've been very thankful at the way the community have accepted the limitations and worked with us to come up with solutions that will support everyone as much as possible. The local community have been very quick to contribute to added costs in time, manaakitanga and resources to help work through those problems. We've had local hunters and people who know the mountain range well, prepared to go up with the technicians to ensure their safety and support getting in and out of the area and while stranded.</p> <p>I am able to share this story in this report. The people involved don't want it to be told in the wider community. This will illustrate how difficulties have been managed.</p> <p>The first trip up the mountain, the men noticed that the helicopter suddenly disappeared when it was waiting for them to complete their work – they saw from their high point an ambulance making its way into the bay where the parents of two of the men lived and they watched as their father was loaded onto the helicopter and flown out. Their mother was driven in the ambulance off after the chopper. As that unfolded, the weather came down and they realised they wouldn't get the chopper back in time to get down from the high point. One of the men was physically unable to walk out, the others could but wouldn't go without him. They all waited together. The chopper was able to get back to a lower point and they needed to walk down, the man required assistance to get to it, they had to move quickly. Two of the guides (local hunters who knew the range very well) had satellite radio and were able to connect to the pilot to get themselves to the correct ridge where the chopper waited in white out conditions. Race against time and conscious of their mate who couldn't walk through the terrain as well as the others, they left their gear and got to the chopper. Incredible skill of the pilot, the chopper literally dropped off the side of the mountain down below the cloud and flew safely back to the base. The guys found that their dad (our project Kaumatua) had suffered a heart attack and been taken to hospital – along with their mum who was cooking and looking after the workers. They all had strict instructions to stay where they were and get the job finished – they would be called if they were needed at the hospital. The WestREAP team and the wife of a WiFi Connect tech stepped into the role of making sure everyone was fed, the community were kept up to date with the progress and liaising between the whanau and the hospital. The way the people rallied, the way everyone had a role and got in and did it, they looked after each other in very trying and potentially disastrous conditions. These have been the elements that have kept the project rolling on, to have surpassed the original project outline by far.</p>
Findings/learnings to date	<p><i>What are you learning? What findings have you made so far?</i></p> <p>We cannot underestimate the life changing effect on people gaining access to communication. Every week there is new evidence and new feedback from someone on the Coast who has heard about the project from someone else in the South Westland community and wants to</p>

	<p>talk to us about their community.</p> <p>It is vital that we get the message across to project planners around the West Coast: This strategy is cost effective, inclusive and unlimited, if you can see it you can access it! It is small cost to the user, small profit –staying on the West Coast, developing a business for the West Coast, creating local employment and above all – ensuring that everyone on the West Coast has an opportunity to participate – business and industry as well as families and community.</p>
<p>Do you anticipate their being anything media-worthy in your project/research*</p>	<p><i>Any outstanding discoveries, good-news stories or unique work (in your opinion?) *Please note we may use this information in a media release.</i></p> <p>We have provided an initial story from a family in Hunts Beach (Bruce Bay). We have heard of others that we haven't been able to confirm or photograph yet or have the permission to repeat.</p> <p>Māori Television has approached the community and requested an interview. They intend to do a story coming from the perspective of the Marae. WiFi Connect and the Runanga are working together on that project and will tell us all about it and copy us in, in due course.</p> <p>WestREAP will travel down to Bruce Bay – we're hoping to coincide it with the fibre hook up so that we're there when WiFi Connect can be there doing their final tweaks to the equipment. Our purpose is to meet with the community on Friday and then again on Saturday morning over food and conversation. The date we have identified is the 9th, - 11th March. We are unable to confirm that as we 'wait for Chorus'. That date has now been postponed and the trip will coincide with an ACE needs analysis overnight trip between Fox Glacier and Haast, to be arranged when Chorus have completed their part of the installation.</p>