



WiFi Connect Ltd
wificonnect.co.nz

Building a Fixed Wireless solution in Remote Rural Communities





- **2014 – Commenced startup business while working with schools in the Tairāwhiti and Bay of Plenty rolling out the Computers in Homes programme.**
- **2014 – Approached by whānau of Te Kura Toitu O Te Whaiti Nui a Toi near Minginui at the gateway to Te Urewera. Also approached by Ngāti Makaawhio in South Westland to build Fixed Wireless network solutions into their Marae at Bruce Bay.**
- **2015 – Built the two community hub networks using spare school fibre out of Te Whaiti and Fox Glacier schools. (Very different Communities but neither had access to the Internet or Cell coverage)**
- **2018 - Crown Funding through RBI2 allowed us to cover all of South Westland and Rural Eastern BOP. (Especially Te Urewera)**



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*One size doesn't fit
all!*

What Worked For Us!

- Community driven.
- Work with the locals.
- Find a capable local to be your contractor on the ground.
- Sustainable for low income communities.
- Next step – Robustness (we all lose the plot when the internet goes down)

Local Champions:

- Chris Eketone and Jose Gage
- Wilson Whanau
- [\(No 1 supporter from the beginning\)](#)





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Where would our rural communities be without the WISPs? Up the creek without a broadband paddle!

WiFi Connect are true pioneers in delivering affordable broadband to the most internet-deprived rural communities. They were amongst the first to leverage the government investment in fibre for schools to provide backhaul connectivity for their wireless networks. WiFi Connect was also amongst the first to demonstrate the value of local community engagement in providing low cost network infrastructure. And there is still more work to do. God save the WISPs!

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