

Level 1, Anvil House
138-140 Wakefield St
Ph 04 473 1510



PO Box 10-364
Wellington 6143

Email: wellingtonseniornet@gmail.com

www.wellingtonseniornet.co.nz

ISSUE 8 JULY 2018

FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to the July 2018 SeniorNet Newsletter

The recent SeniorNet AGM was informative and enjoyable, and attended by a good number of members.

Welcome to the two new executive members, and thanks to all who work to make this a thriving organisation, especially to those who have provided photographs or sat at their keyboards and contributed to the newsletters.

This editorial is a plea to members to let us know if there is anything of general interest that you can offer for the newsletter, either by writing it yourself or identifying any worthwhile pieces online that we might be able to reprint. Or is there anything you would particularly like to see covered in the newsletter?

We look forward to hearing from you.

- Penny Beckett and Riet van Koeverden

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Greetings to all SeniorNet members. Well, our 26th AGM has been held. The venue was the Boatshed, and the weather

turned out well for us. There were about 100 members in attendance. Nal Ariyawansa and his team from Noel Leeming were also present, with a table set up showing some of the latest gadgets and wares that are in vogue at the moment. Nal also sponsored some gifts for the "spot" prizes at the AGM, notably a 1TB portable hard drive which was won by Derek Oldershaw.

There were quite a few comments that the venue was very good and that maybe we should have it there again next year. We shall see.

Annual Report

I presented my Chairman's report as sent out to all members, but in the form of highlighted bullet points in a power-point presentation. The report was accepted by the AGM

Financial Report and discussion

Derek Smith presented the Financial Report, which had also been sent to

all members on behalf of Keryn Campbell. Keryn was in attendance and was prepared to answer any questions, but there weren't any. The Financial report was accepted by the AGM.

Derek thanked our Reviewer Keith Kenderdine, and as Keith is prepared to continue in that role, moved that he be appointed as the Reviewer for the 2018-2019 Financial year. The motion was carried.

Election of the Executive

Derek read out the nominations received for the Executive.



Secretary Derek Smith addressing the meeting



Mostly full house at the boat shed

The following is your Executive for 2018-2019

Chairman - Allan Chee

Deputy Chairman - Graeme Munro

Secretary - Derek Smith

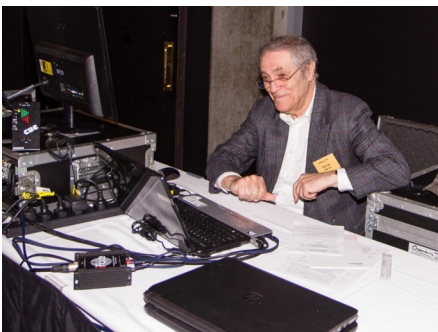
Treasurer -again, we didn't have any nominations for this position, so we will continue to contract Keryn Campbell, who has done a very good job.

All the current members of the Executive except Colin Archer had indicated that they were prepared to stand again and were duly elected - Marjorie Finn, Franci Stapleton, Celia Simpson, Keith Smith, Ray Hennan, and Peter Moon.

Two new members had accepted nomination for the Executive - Ricky Berg and Les Dyne -and were duly elected.

Life Membership and Awards

I had the pleasure of giving out two life membership awards.



• One to **George Barna** for his outstanding contribution to Wellington SeniorNet in the form of our "new" Relational Database, and taking on the role of Database Administrator. This "tool" has been a great benefit in management and administration of our organisation. George continues to "tweak" it so that reports and queries are easy to execute by our Volunteer Office staff. George also contributes to weekly Clinic sessions. In fact, he is the only one who is present at every Monday the Clinic is on. He is also an active participant at our monthly COG and Q&A tutorials.



• One to **Gillian (Jill) Allen** for her long service to Wellington SeniorNet. Jill says she joined SeniorNet around 1995 and joined the Office Volunteer group around 2001. Since then she has become a competent tutor. Jill is a valued member of the Help Centre team and attends every Monday. Jill says she just loves technology and wants to pass on to others what she has learned at SeniorNet and to show that learning computer skills can be fun and not scary. Jill embodies the ethos of SeniorNet in her endeavours to share what she has learnt and I hope she is an inspiration to other members to do the same.

I also had the pleasure of giving out three **Certificates of Appreciation** awards.



• One to **Colin Archer**. Colin, our Immediate Past Chairman is standing down from the Executive. Colin joined SeniorNet in 1995 and he is member No. 26 in our new database. He served as treasurer for five years from 2006, then was elected Chairman in 2011, a position he held until 2016.

Colin did an exceptionally good job for us as Treasurer. It was a demanding period when our institutional funding support changed from the Aoraki Polytechnic to The Tertiary Education Commission. Colin has managed our TEC relationship since its inception.

His contribution to the ongoing success of SeniorNet Wellington has been outstanding.

Colin's work as Chairman has gone "well beyond the call of duty" and in thanking him for his outstanding contribution I want to extend our sincere thanks to his wife Ruth for her forbearance and her strong support.

• One each to **Ngair Jackson** and **Sandra Thorn** for their long and dedicated service in organising the Monday "Practice" and ICT sessions, which have evolved into the Help Centre. As co-leaders of the Monday team, they have been very pro-active and from this we have seen that they saw a change in the type of help members wanted. The "Practice" sessions were transformed into the "Help Centre" last year to meet members' requirements. At present, the Help Centre is "a hive" of activity in each of our two classrooms each Monday.

General Business

I opened the floor for any general business and a new member, Rachel McAlpine, told the meeting that she had come across a "Social Blogging" site as opposed to private and business blogging. She said she could see this as a benefit to Seniors in overcoming "loneliness". Rachel said she would like to explore this with SeniorNet. I look forward to talking with Rachel to see where this could lead us.

There was no further General Business.

Guest Speaker.

Franci Stapleton introduced her friend **Seth Kenlon** who works as a freelance **animator**.

Seth gave an interesting talk on making animations with a computer and showed the meeting the process of making an animation using various free open source software.





MUSINGS FROM

'The Serviceman Who Tells'

Episode 71

Housekeeping

Everyone using a personal computer device needs to do an occasional bit of housekeeping. Some lucky ones get assistance.

Once Upon a Time

A group of us used to pay \$10 a year to subscribe to the Computer Owners' Newsletter which arrived with the Postie once a month. We eagerly waited at our letterboxes and phoned one another to discuss the content. The Newsletters were later put into ring binders, indexed and consulted when problems arose.

A Paperless Society

Today the SeniorNet Wellington Website provides succour to more than 500 of the "play away" paid up Members. The remaining 200, give or take, come to town from time to time on their Gold Card in order to visit the SeniorNet Wellington Centre to have a "hands on" or to attend one or more of the provided Centre activities.

My Personal Choices of Housekeeping Weaponry

My choices, from a bewildering range of offerings, comprise trustworthy and reliable software items and associated services. For a number of good reasons, which I will not burden you with here, they include the **Firefox** Internet browser, **Thunderbird** Email manager, an **Internet Service Provider** that supports Email and can also provide someone to talk to, an **AntiSpyware** application that is activated and updates automatically, and **cFosSpeed** that monitors the performance of my Internet traffic. The latter is invaluable when checking streaming glitches (watching movies on-line). The icing on the cake is a free version of a program called **inSSIDer** that shows my WIFI connection, strength of service, and who is blocking me out. This is very useful when travelling.

The Proof of Need

Recently my Windows Netbook travelled with me to USA, Portugal, Spain, France, Indonesia and Singa-

pore. I kept in touch with Wellington using the Stuff website. Everywhere we went there were local offers of goods and services appended to the newspaper I was seeking to read. How does the DomPost, or whatever it calls itself, know so much about me and my whereabouts?

Paradise Lost

Personal information, once disclosed, can never be recalled. Information sent via the Internet, even to trusted friends, gradually enters public knowledge. Some applications are not a bit gradual. For this reason some such as **Facebook** are prohibited items in this household. But this, and other "free" services that somehow become extremely wealthy, are topics for another time and place. Think about how all this comes about.

That's all for now, folks.

Regards from

[Trevor tc.koenig@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Trevor.tc.koenig@xtra.co.nz)

Watch this space!

NEW PRODUCT:

Sound Hearing Aids Aid Amplifier Adjustable Tone In Ear For The Elderly Hearing Device Digital Hearing Aids Care
[*the agent's description!*]

**What and why?**

I am completely deaf in one ear and partially deaf in the other. I wear hearing aids. They are of little or no use in meetings or crowd situations. I have purchased this hearing amplifier with a cable that goes into a little ear-piece that fits into one ear. How much?

\$NZ 11 with free postage to NZ

Where from?

[AliExpress at https://goo.gl/gwDgyr](https://goo.gl/gwDgyr)

Anything else?

I have used this device in several meetings, presentations and workshops, with good results. It has adjustable volume and frequency reception.

Alan Royal



LUCKY DIP URL'S

From John Cook

MAGICIAN Kevin James performs an entertaining illusion that helped him win the Best Comedy Illusionist Award at the 2007 World Magic Awards. I had never seen this act and found it fascinating to watch as I wasn't quite sure how it was going to end. I'm glad the doctor was able to put everything back in its proper place after his magical surgery.



COMEDIAN – Victor Borge performing in his younger days.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3Z2mrpqtRo

This is a do-it-yourself one. Copy the link into your browser.

If you're a fan of curling you might enjoy this video of some car curling in Montreal narrated by Olympic Curling legend Jennifer Jones. Nobody announced to the onlookers that a Bus Bonspiel was scheduled for this intersection but they got front row seats to one of the best car curling events of the season. I love how the snow plough at the end was still putting out sand. That driver was determined to do his job until the very end. (To hear the commentary Click the CC wording at the bottom of your screen before you start the video.)



www.youtube.com/embed/jOcYhjIcxW4

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EXCERPTS FROM MICHAEL MUNRO'S ATTACHED MAGAZINE NOTES

From vital information to light entertainment

TECHLife Australia (Dec 2017)

AVOIDING DISASTER

The lead articles in this issue are on gaming laptops. Such articles are not, in my experience, of particular interest to the SeniorNet members. But there are other articles here which could – and in this case, should – have general appeal. For example, "Create an emergency rescue disk to keep your data safe" (pp. 100 – 101). The concept behind this article is simple. It is that sooner or later your PC (it doesn't matter whether it's a laptop or desktop) is going to fail. Very well; a virus or whatever is preventing the machine starting. What to do? The advice given here is to have earlier created a bootable flash drive, or a so configured CD-ROM, so that, when disaster strikes, you can get the machine operable again. The article here describes the Avira Rescue system. It takes you step-by-step through what you need to do to create, and then use, this notably useful tool. I think it is worth photocopying and I have followed my own advice.

TECHLife Australia (Xmas 2017)

INSERTING A STENT

Unfortunately, the only article likely to be of interest to most SeniorNet members is entitled "Purge New PC of Crapware" (pp.106-107). (Even then, for most of us the interest in this theme is likely to be pretty slight.) The article goes into detail about how to get rid of junkware, to fix the Windows settings to turn off "some of the more egregious [Microsoft] spying systems", and tells you how to reinstall your favourite apps without downloading adware or spyware in the process. What are the programmes the article recommends to do all this? They are PC Decrapifier; Slimware SlimCleaner; Should I remove it; Ninite; and Unchecky. They are all available on the web, but the first one you should download is Unchecky, because it will help ensure that you don't, in immediate following moves, unintentionally download programmes that could be, at the least a nuisance, and possibly malevolent.

PC&TECH Authority (January 2018)

SECURITY

The flagship article in this issue is "Block all new threats: how do you keep all of your computers and phones secure in 2018? A high-quality Security Suite won't solve all your problems, but it's a key first step" (pp. 68 – 85). There is a lot of useful material here. Key section headings are: "Do I really need security software?; Is free security software worth it?; Anti-virus or security suite?; Do I need a 2018 Suite?; be a smart shopper; is a firewall necessary anymore?; the truth about safe browsing; password managers; and Parental controls". Now we know that many

SeniorNet members rely on Windows Defender. It's an easy choice because it comes as part of Windows 10, and as such it is free. And it has had good reviews: but not in this issue. In a major comparative test of 13 security suites, Windows Defender did not do well. It was 12th (only McAfee Total Protection was behind it). The assessment was that "this simple tool blocks the most common threats, but ... it's not as effective as third-party security software. It's a good idea to consider upgrading to something smarter and more effective". Very well, I hear you say, is there a free alternative? There are such, and from them the magazine nominates Avast Free Antivirus, saying that it offers better protection than you'd get from Windows Defender, although it does include occasional, potentially annoying, pop-ups. But that is of course the price of its being free.

TECHLife Australia (Dec 2017)

OUTWITTING SMART GRANDDAUGHTERS

Now it is not unknown for people to say that maths is not their thing. If that is their experience, then Sudoku may have little appeal. But it is perfectly possible, say, to have a granddaughter for whom Sudoku is one of life's great gifts, and who would like all around her to appreciate it similarly. So imagine that it is 2:00 pm, and that she and her parents are arriving for afternoon tea at three. She wants to discuss the Sudoku puzzle in that day's Dominion Post with you. You've frantically found the right page, but haven't a clue what to do with the puzzle. In such situations it is often the case that people turn to their computers for help, and this issue has the answer. It is ingenious and though essentially dishonest, it could save your face. What you must do as quickly as possible is to download a free app called "Magic Sudoku" (p.33). You then point your Smartphone's camera at any printed Sudoku problem, and, hey presto, it gives you the answer. You can now breathe a sigh of relief, put on the kettle and search for the orange juice. If perchance you are thinking about the moral dimension of all this (and want to be prepared with a well-thought-out answer when she finds the app on your phone), one approach would be to smile and say that you're using the app to learn to solve Sudoku problems more easily. And in a way that would be true.

TECHLife Australia (February 2018)

IN THE SWIM

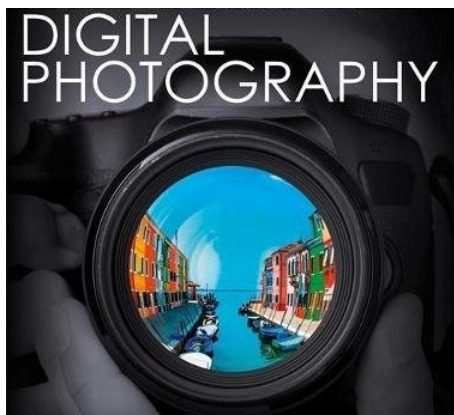
For many SeniorNet members streaming has been a bridge too far. But that's changing as grandchildren talk about how easy it all is, and SeniorNet itself runs workshops on the topic. But it's one thing to have learned, real-time, to stream information through your TV; it's another to have learned to "Listen to music and view videos off-line on mobile" (pp.96-97). So why would you want to do this? Parents will tell you: give children an iPad or an Android tablet – and a reasonable

movie – and tedious, often grumpy, hours in the back of the SUV are changed to a good trip, enjoyed by all. But to hone in, why would grandparents be interested? Well, quite apart from long car trips with seven year-olds, imagine a long weekend at a friend's bach at Eka-tahuna, where, in proud pioneering fashion, there's no TV. No problem: as Grandchildren's Entertainment Manager you have thought ahead and loaded up your device with some appropriate movies. Your partner is impressed. For your part, you're deeply grateful you read this article. (Helpfully, it covers not only Netflix, Stan and YouTube, but also Spotify. What an age we live in.)

TECHLife Australia (February 2018)

CLICKING AWAY

The cover story of this issue is "Smartphone Photography Masterclass" (pp.59-79). This is an impressive coverage of an area of Smartphone ownership relevant to many SeniorNet members. Topics highlighted are: "boost your Smartphone photography skills - go from random snapper to top-end photographer with these tips and tricks; Smartphone photography apps - from apps to revolutionise the way you take photos to those that enhance your images and share them, we show you how to make the most of your Smartphone camera's capabilities; best Smartphone photography accessories - boost your phone's shooting capabilities well beyond its limits to set your photos apart; [and] Prints charming - today's dedicated photo printers can give you pro results at home. We test eight models priced from \$120 up to \$999".



Digicam Group.

At our digital camera meeting on Thursday 14th June, 17 folk enjoyed the wonderful presentation by our guest speaker, Ross Williamson on "making a video".

Ross is near professional perfection at shooting and editing videos. We learned how he approaches editing using a "time line" to introduce and join up video clips plus add music and descriptive speech. He also gave us a "hand-out list" of free editing programs. There is a fair learning curve in this field of photography to achieve anywhere near his standard but some of us are determined to "have a bash" using a camera or smart phone. The 'taking' part is easy - hold steady, observe thoughtfully for suitable subject matter, keep the clips short and above all, look for humorous incidents.

For our Thursday July 12 meeting we want you to take some video clips and show our group your results, warts and all! On your camera, turn your control to the wee movie camera emblem and press "what-ever" your guide/manual tells you. Smart phone devotees touch/tap the video icon, but check on that. On my camera I have a designated button I press to start and press again to stop shooting. Ray and Bryan look forward to entertaining you with our efforts. Quit laughing please!

Digicam Group meetings are free to members. We always have at least 10 attend. There is always a "theme" plus time to ask questions – anything related to photography but especially digital photography. From the floor there are always interjections, suggestions, criticisms, questions and "even some answers" which makes for a lively, interesting and entertaining meeting; plus social time over a cuppa.

Ray Heenan is the facilitator, sometimes assisted by Bryan Carver. At the May meeting, for example, Ray handed out a list of 69 Useful Web Sites that he has compiled. He ran one of these female model posing guide and techniques — see me in action-studio session.mp4 ... It was excellent, great ideas that can be applied in all situations.

Ray and Bryan are happy to stay behind for a while after 12 pm should you have a particular problem, or better still email your problem to SeniorNet before the meeting, addressed to them. "Keep on clicking".

Lost scarf

Ngaire Jackson was down at SeniorNet early in June and left her lovely scarf behind on hall stand in room 11. When she went back to look for it a few days later, it was gone.

The scarf was an expensive gift of is of great sentimental value. It is a dark forest green, made of opossum and merino wool.

If you find you picked up the scarf in error, please call Ngaire on 389 2629 or take it into the SeniorNet office.

TUTORIALS

10am-12 Noon Tutorial or Interest groups as some people know them are a great opportunity to learn something new, learn from others' experience, share knowledge and enjoy fellowship while doing so. All members are welcome to attend these tutorials. There is no attendance fee for tutorials. The next in the monthly series are:-

COG; Wednesday July 25, August 22, September 26

Digital Camera; Thursday July 12, August 9, September 13

Android Smartphones & Tablets Group; Tuesday July 24, August 28, September 25

Writing & Publishing; Suspended until Facilitator for the Group is found

Apple Mac; Monday July 16, August 20, September 17

Questions & Answers; Thursday July 19, August 16, September 20

SHORT COURSES

At this time there are no courses to advertise. Please watch out for the email you receive weekly which lists events, workshops, Clinic, Learning Centre and courses in the new year. Also check out the SeniorNet website <http://www.wellingtonseniornet.co.nz> and our calendar in July, August and September.

WORKSHOPS

Please watch the SeniorNet website <http://www.wellingtonseniornet.co.nz> for upcoming events and don't forget our online Calendar at <http://bit.ly/seniornetcalendar> Hint: Click on the calendar item you are interested in and there may be more details about the course or clinic or workshop, etc.

SENIORNET HELP CENTRE

We are open every Monday, except public holidays, from 10am-12pm and 12.30pm-2.30pm. Members can either use the machines at SeniorNet or bring their own, remembering to bring charging cords, if necessary, and a note of passwords, again, if necessary. However, if the problem is Hardware or Operating System related, they will be referred to the Clinic which also operates on Mondays at 12.30pm in Room 2.

Although it is not strictly necessary to pre-register, it is advisable in order for us to provide one-on-one tuition. To enrol, please either ring or email us:

[Ngaire Jackson ngairej@gmail.com](mailto:Ngaire.Jackson@ngairej@gmail.com) or phone 04-3892629

[Sandra Thorn: saonbeauchamp@gmail.com](mailto:Sandra.Thorn@saonbeauchamp@gmail.com) or phone 04-2324173



MORE LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Please check our website <http://www.wellingtonseniornet.co.nz> for activities as they arise. Emails will be regularly sent to members in advance of activities.



CLINIC SESSION: -

Do you need help with your device?

The next session is 9 July.

When: Every Monday during term (except on Public Holidays) from 12.30pm to 2.30pm.

Where: Anvil House, Level 1, Meeting Room 2, 138-140 Wakefield Street

What: Get help with your computer – technical or other related problems. Bring your laptop, tablet, or phone - and all associated cables, discs, manuals, power connection and so on. Don't forget your mouse.

Come at 12.30pm and see if we can help. We don't offer guarantees, but we may be able to assist. If we cannot assist, we may refer you to undertake a relevant SeniorNet course or workshop, or to seek professional assistance.

Investment is \$10, payable on the day. Correct change if possible please.

N.B. If nobody has turned up at the Clinic for advice by 1:00pm on the Monday the "GP's" are released to leave if they wish.



Volunteers' Days

Thursday 5 July,

1 August - 10am – 12pm

Visitors' Day

Thursday 27 September

