

## Computer Owners' Group Magazine Notes for August 2020 – May 2021

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All the computer magazines reviewed below are held in the SeniorNet office and the Wellington Public Library, and are available for borrowing. We do not review every magazine we receive.

*Ed. Note 1: We appreciate this contribution from member Michael Munro, and apologise for the very late publication of his Magazine Notes from last year. We feel sure that the information contained is still of interest to members.*

### **Australia Personal Computer (August 2020)**

#### **Naked data?**

The lead article, "Protect your data" (pp.64 – 71), is the sort of piece that you'd wished you'd read – and actioned – before a disaster. It reminds us that we are human and that humans are often irrational. And then it tells us what we would do if we were really trying to protect our files from the prying eyes out there. In a word, there's no guarantee that they can be stopped from getting in and looking at key files; but they can be prevented from reading them. The key to this is strong encryption. Sounds complicated? Not really: the article takes you through what you need to do. You can encrypt single files, or entire disks (including USB thumb drives). It also advises how to protect files which you may have uploaded to the cloud.

When we first came into computing, we'd assume that deleting a file was just like taking a document we wanted to destroy – and putting it into the fire. There, it's all gone. But the parallel is misleading. Nowadays we know that we can instruct the computer to delete a file, but that, without special measures, that file is recoverable. The present article tells you what to do to enable the computer to securely wipe data from your machine.

## **TECHLife Australia (September 2020)**

### **More Wi-Fi problems**

When Wi-Fi works, it's wonderful – and we all take it for granted that it will. So we get upset when it stops doing what it should – or perhaps it never did all that we wanted it to? Either way we want solutions before we have to call in expensive help. (I note here that our Help Centre is not expensive, it solves many problems - but not all - and does not, unfortunately, make house calls.)

This issue has a SuperGuide (sic). It's entitled "Wi-Fi Problems Solved!" (pp.62 – 71) and is a useful, detailed, piece of work covering fixing local connection issues; wider network faults; "niggling Wi-Fi problems" (this includes extender issues); and sharing difficulties. But the most useful advice given in the article is something that newbies want to learn as quickly as possible. It is that "many problems can often be fixed simply by switching the router off, waiting, then switching it on again" (p.67).

### **Plucking Apples**

People who buy Apple products have an eye for good gear. The article, "The Ultimate Apple Buyers Guide" (pp.72 – 85), would save them hours in an Apple shop struggling to get a shop assistant's attention. Everything they could want to see is here, in full colour and good descriptive detail. In other words, it's a very useful advertising feature. But people who prefer other operating systems will pass by on the other side.

### **Going over the Edge**

Which internet browser do you use? It's probably not Microsoft's Edge, the firm's replacement for Internet Explorer. An article, "The New Edge" (pp.98 – 99), comments that "the updated version of Edge is finally the browser we wanted from Microsoft ... for our part we're pretty happy with it." The article says that Edge "beats Chrome now in terms of security options", and discusses these options in considerable detail.

## **Working from Home**

Whether for money or not, many of us these days are working from home – and that often means having to interact with other associated people on-line. There’s a helpful article in this issue, “Expert Advice: Work from home with ease” (pp.52 – 61). It includes double-page spreads on mastering such valuable (and widely-used) apps as WhatsApp, Google Drive and Dropbox. It’s worth photo-copying.

## **Google to the rescue**

Lost the car? Promised to phone London at 7 pm (our time) to mark a grand-daughter’s birthday? Can Google assist? An article here, “How to organise your life with Android and Google” (pp.98 – 99), assures you that Google is ready, willing and able. First, concerning the car: immediately you’ve parked, open Google Maps, “then tap the blue dot that represents your current location, and then select ‘Save’ from the menu that appears.” However, getting a reminder for the birthday call is more complicated. To start with, you have to have Google Assistant on your phone. If you have Android 9 or later, long press the Home key. So doing will activate Google Assistant – if it’s there. If it’s not there, then download it from the Play Store. By the same token, if you have any Android operating system from Android 5 onwards you should find that you can download Google Assistant from the Play Store – and it should work. You could then say to your Google Assistant – “Remind me at 7 pm to phone London to give Jessica birthday greetings”. And it will. Jessica will be delighted and your daughter-in-law highly impressed.

## **TECHLife Australia (October 2020)**

### **Keeping yourself safe**

We are all pretty familiar now with advice as to how to keep our computers safe. (Whether we take the advice proffered is another matter!) In any case there’s another helpful article on this theme in this issue. It is “Lock it down ... how to make your PC secure against malware and other threats” (pp.52 – 59). It’s a highly competent article, and would repay close reading.

## **A reading Christmas**

Boxing Day is a time for clearing-up, reading - and assessing the wisdom of your Christmas purchases. Consider: you may be reading on your new Kobo or Kindle, and speculating as to whether you made the right choice. There's an article here, "Kobo Nia" (pp.12 -13), which could have partially assisted you in making your purchase. It's reviewing the new Kobo Nia, and in doing so, it's being tested against Amazon's ubiquitous Kindle. The assessment seems to boil down to screen resolution and of course access to e-books. The new Kobo has the better screen resolution (1024 x 758 pixels) v. the Kindle's 800 x 600 pixels. (But don't be mistaken: the Kindle's screen resolution is adequate.) Now, on access to e-books, there's little doubt that the Kindle bookstore is a superb resource; but, if, understandably, you don't want to buy your books and instead want to make use of libraries, then Kobo is undoubtedly the way to go.

### **Australia Personal Computer (October 2020)**

#### **A Little Something concerning Linux**

For those very few SeniorNet members who are interested in Linux, I note a useful article in this issue, "Next-gen distros" (pp.56 – 59). I acknowledge that much about Linux requires translation, and I should start here by explaining that "distros" is the shortened form of "distributions". This is Linux code for saying "different versions of the master Linux operating system". The article is of interest (to the few) because it describes the currently most fashionable different versions of the master Linux operating system. Although some parts of it require a more skilled translator than me, one comment in it is worth all of us underlining: "all gurus were once newbies ...".

### **TECHLife Australia (November 2020)**

#### **Apple Treats**

Our Apple members have a great spread before them in a feature article in this issue. It is "Introducing iOS 14 and iPad iOS 14" (pp.70 – 79). The introduction to the article says, as you'd expect, that iOS 14 is "a more powerful system that is easier to use and more adept at helping us navigate

our lives and stay connected to the people who are important to us". We are assured that it's "a very exciting update and over the following pages [we will] showcase the best new feature in full. Brace yourselves ..." May it appeal.

### **Switching to a new Android phone**

There will be members whose children are giving themselves new Android phones for Christmas (indeed there are some great models coming on to the market). It is therefore in the natural order of things that some members will be receiving – gift wrapped of course! – their children's phones which are now no longer required. The practical issue for our people is how to switch from your old phone to the new one which has just appeared. Well-timed is an article here, "How to switch seamlessly to a new Android" (pp.96 – 97). It tells you what to do, pointing out that your new phone will probably have a programme called "Set Up My Device". This should be the answer to all problems. But, as the article helpfully notes, despite it being "as smooth as it is, Google's Set Up My Device can make mistakes ..."; and it tells you in some detail what to do if it does.

Now if do-it-yourself is not your thing, the alternative is to drop in on your internet provider's Wellington store – during a non-busy time – and the good people there could help you. Otherwise, check that your SeniorNet membership is up-to-date, and email Sandra to ask for a Help Centre appointment. (Details on our website.) You would not be surprised if there were a post-Christmas queue.

## **Australia Personal Computer (November 2020)**

### **Google to the Fore**

Google has become a force in our lives – and certainly so on our computers. In an unusual feature in this issue, recent developments in the programme are discussed in a special article entitled "Google Tips and Tricks" (pp.1 – 15). It's unusual and special because it's not listed on the contents' page; you'll find it by turning the magazine upside down and starting from the back cover! But it's worth doing so. The feature is wide-ranging with section headings as follows: "Organisation: Harness the power of Google's online services to help get your life in order"; "Use Chrome as your desktop: Set up a

super-slip desktop in Chrome”; “Organise your mobile device with Drive: Stay organised on the go with Drive Mobile”; “Access your computer anywhere: Control your computer remotely through Chrome”; “See phone notifications on your desktop”; “Work with tags in Feedly: Create an article library in Feedly with tags”; “Save reminders and to-do lists: Give yourself a visual heads-up through Gmail”; “Start labelling emails: How to create and manage a new Gmail label”; “Search more accurately using the advanced tools”; and “Converse with anyone in any language: Use Google Translate to speak to anyone in more than 100 different languages”.

### **Unmentionable**

Why do Chromebooks currently seem unmentionable at SeniorNet? It is the case that for many years I have not heard anybody at Anvil House talking about these laptop computers, and I have wondered why. It may be that it is because they are much cheaper than the ordinary Windows laptop - and because there can be an unreasonable prejudice against technology which does a reasonable job, but does not command a premium price. To its great credit, Australia Personal Computer has a review article entitled “Affordable alternate OS laptops” (pp.38 - 43). The article “rounds up the best Chromebooks and Windows 10 S laptops to see how good lightweight PCs are for today’s cloud-based workflows”. Some valuable points are made: “for small business, students and individuals, Google is the clear winner on cost and ease of access. All the online apps are free for any user with a Google account and Chromebooks come with a one-year subscription to Google One. The article concludes that “Chromebooks are an excellent alternative to Windows 10 for lightweight systems ... We are genuinely surprised Chromebooks aren’t a bigger feature in the local market”. So there you are. If your granddaughter needs a computer, it doesn’t have to be too expensive.

### **TECHLife Australia (December 2020)**

#### **Dashcam problem solved**

Your son-in-law (who is doing well) always likes to make a good impression, especially so at Christmas time. This year all that particular family are coming down from Auckland to be with you. He asked your daughter what you would like for your present, and she sensibly asked your wife who,

sensibly, has asked you – and ordered you to pretend not to know about this characteristically efficient chain of transmission. As your mind mulled over this pleasant gifting problem while you were cutting the lawn, the thought came to you quite clearly, even insistently – “Dashcam, Dashcam”. Then you remembered an article in this month’s TECHLife entitled “Transcend DrivePro 10 Dashcam” (p.79). The assessment was highly favourable: “it’s well-built, unobtrusive, easy to use, delivers great quality and works reliably ... The best news, however, is that it only costs \$119 which means that it’s one of the cheapest premium dashcams we’ve seen”. You pause. “Well”, you think, “I know that price is in Australian dollars – but he can afford it”.

### **Life goes on**

I came to this article with hope. It’s called “SuperGuide: 101 Gadgets you can’t live without” (pp.48 – 69). It’s a major feature in a prestigious tech magazine so you might well expect it to be essentially electronically oriented. But the first major illustration should have warned me. At the start, there were sensible objects: a pair of headphones; a Sonos speaker; a computer mouse; a Roku TV stick; a keyboard; - but then a slippery slope. First on it was a self-cleansing water bottle which uses UV light – and then, Adidas running shoes! The definition of gadget must be wide indeed, because included in the 101 collection was a large BBQ, the Charbroil Gas2Coal 440 at \$A 6,529, and a set of Le Creuset Cast Iron cookware at \$US 525. Now it should not be thought that the article failed to consider many interesting electronic devices (though I could not call them gadgets, that would be, to me at least, misleading.) In any case, among them was one which would be of interest to us. It is the Amazon Fire HD 8. It is a tablet and the comment was made that “the Fire series is exceedingly good value for money and can run just about every video and audio streaming app out there – which is all you need, really.”

## **Australia Personal Computer (December 2020)**

### **Upgrading the PC**

This magazine has a brilliant technical writer in Darren Yates. Month after month he writes top material. Often it would only be of sustained interest to our Technical Committee (of which I am not a member). But, for the rest of us, he has a useful article in this month’s issue. It is “Ten PC

upgrades under \$50” (pp.102 – 103). These ten and their cost (in Australian dollars) are as set out below. His prices are low because he often uses Ebay. More details about each suggestion are in the article. Don’t forget you may need help in fitting this gear.

Upgrade 1:	A new SSD (\$44)
Upgrade 2:	More RAM (\$49)
Upgrade 3:	New Keyboard/Mouse combo (\$39)
Upgrade 4:	Better cooling (\$40)
Upgrade 5:	New USB soundcard (\$15)
Upgrade 6:	Faster Wi-Fi (\$35)
Upgrade 7:	USB Gamepad (\$49)
Upgrade 8:	USB CD-R/DVD-ROM drive (\$20)
Upgrade 9:	Better headphones (\$50)
Upgrade 10:	OS refresh (Free)

### **Personal Observation**

It is somewhat surprising to see some words which one has already read in one publication, repeated, exactly, sentence after sentence, in a different publication. “What’s going on?”, one wonders. Worse – “is one’s memory playing tricks? Surely it’s too early for that?” To explain: the August 2020 edition of Australia Personal Computer (APC) which, on your behalf I have closely read, has a regular section entitled “How-to: Top Tips to Tackle Tech Trouble: APC experts solve computing problems” (pp.84 – 85). All APC issues have a column so entitled. On this occasion there was no particular problem in it which I judged was likely to be relevant to our members, but the column itself is always worth considering. Now TECHLife Australia also has a similar help column: it’s entitled “Help Station: Expert solutions for everyday problems”. So, as you’d expect, different publication – therefore different problems and different solutions. But when I read TECHLife’s September 2020 column (pp.86 – 87), I saw so many repeated paragraphs from the earlier APC article that I felt that the editors who administer these valuable magazines during difficult times – may need to be congratulated on their efficiency in re-

using apparently scarce resources. The same point applies to the APC column in the October 2020 issue (pp. 86 – 87), and the relevant TECHLife November 2020 column (pp.86 – 87).

Ed. Note 2. **APC** (formerly known as **Australian Personal Computer**) is a computer magazine in Australia published by Future Australia.  
**TechLife** (formerly **PC User**) is an Australian general computer magazine, also published monthly by Future Australia.

### **Australia Personal Computer (February 2021)**

#### **New life in old bottles**

At last our society is taking recycling seriously. This applies to computers too. Darren Yates has a helpful article in this issue, “Recycle, repair, restore, reuse” (pp. 100 – 101), in which he tells us how we can make good use of our obsolete computer systems. For those of us who keep outdated laptops in the attic or on a high shelf in the garage, he has an interesting suggestion. Don’t worry, he says, if they’re old and slow, or if they can only run Windows XP or Windows 7; instead, install a new operating system and watch these devices whizz along. Yates makes the point that even old laptops are still likely to have sufficient horse power to run a Linux system. There are plenty to choose from. They range from the lean Puppy Linux to the fully featured Ubuntu. Among the many benefits of installing a new operating system is that it “can add new security capabilities the old OS may no longer support”.

#### **Polishing the Apple**

Owners of Apple computers are in for a treat here. The article entitled “iOS system maintenance” (pp. 94 – 95) describes some valuable iMazing tools which will allow you to do some things not built in to the Apple system. For example, iMazing allows you to browse your file system - an easy process with Windows devices. Among other things, this programme “adds extra features to existing tools”. For example, in the backup context it lets you “create an automatic backup schedule, choose where your backups are saved and whether they are archived, and more”. This fills a gap that Apple has resolutely ignored. The article also notes additional useful features of this programme.

## Control Panel delights

As we recall, in the early days of Windows, Control Panel was the place to go to change all sorts of settings. But when we were gifted Windows 10, we found that, for some unexplained reason, Microsoft had decided to replace most of Control Panel with the “far inferior Settings window”. In an article here, “Take back Control Panel” (pp. 90 – 91), we are told how to get access to Control Panel and, in particular, how to access “God mode”. The secret: “right-click on the desktop, and select ‘New’ then ‘Folder’, before naming it ‘God mode.{ED7BA470-8E54-465e-825c99712043e01C}’” – you can then rename the folder.

## Pistols at dawn

Business is war, and there is an ongoing struggle between Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox. That’s the theme of an article here (pp. 42 – 43). It provides background to the two programmes and evaluates them. The assessment is that Chrome is the more efficient programme. But we pay a heavy price for that: Google tracks everything we do. Firefox, though not as fast as Chrome, is fast enough for most users – and, the clincher for many people, it’s free of corporate monitoring. The article concludes that Firefox is “solid and dependable ... and we prefer its interface”.

## Striking progress

There is a review here (p. 28) of the new MacBook Pro 13. Now the magazines which I read are full of reviews of new machines - so why single this one out? The answer is that this new Apple laptop has aroused unexpected, and notable enthusiasm, and I thought we should be aware of it. The article says “... if you break down the key new features for this machine, the update is nothing short of revolutionary. In addition to having more CPU power than its predecessor, the new MacBook Pro 13 also gains a transformative GPU upgrade, more than doubles its battery life, and lands at a significantly better RRP, without any real downsides. This might just be the biggest generational laptop update we’ve ever seen ... Apple or otherwise”. The writer of the article didn’t tell us what RRP stands for, but a quick Google search suggests that it could be any of the following: RRP: Resource Reservation Protocol: RRP: Rapid Response Process: RRP: Router Redundancy Protocol: RRP: Random

Reservation Protocol. However, more digging tends to suggest that the acronym in this case could be for Recommended Retail Price - which is, for that matter, \$A1999.

### **Australia Personal Computer (March 2021)**

#### **Sharing your desktop**

The ability to take full charge of another person's computer via a clever programme gives profitable employment to a number of criminal hackers. But an object is not necessarily to be blamed for how it is used. TeamViewer, for example, is a programme which can be used for nefarious purposes, but which can also be used by an expert to repair your computer from another location. That saves on callout fees and general inconvenience. However, a problem is that the free version of TeamViewer seems sometimes arbitrarily to hang. What then to do? An article in this issue, "Rising Star" (p. 36) reviews AnyDesk. It's an alternative to TeamViewer, is recommended by this magazine, and it's free.

#### **Crowded house**

The lead article in this issue is "The future of home networking" (pp. 46 – 51). It is a creditable piece of work, but it's highly technical and I think unlikely to be of interest to most of our members. Its conclusion is that, in due course, our devices will all be talking to one another – but it doesn't say whether their conversations will be particularly useful to us. (The author's final sentences are a little alarming. He says: "Let's hope the coming decade is an exciting one! If we survive it that is!")

### **TECHLife Australia (March 2021)**

#### **How to do it**

The lead article in this issue is the "Essential Windows Productivity Guide" (pp. 42 – 67). It deals with Microsoft Word; Microsoft Excel; Microsoft PowerPoint; and Microsoft OneDrive. It's pitched at the entry level, but for all that it does provide a useful refresher for more experienced players. My

feeling is that seniors new to computing would be very happy to have this article on their bookshelves.

### **MacRescue**

If, frustrated by your Windows machine, you ever thought that Macs don't have problems, this impressive article will convince you otherwise. It's entitled "Common Mac problems solved" (pp. 76 – 85), and if I owned a Mac, I would go out and buy this issue immediately. There is a lot of very practical advice here on a range of issues that apparently Macs can experience. These issues include: drive sharing; Safari keeps crashing; stubborn ejection; slow shutdown; Bluetooth woes; authentication issues; charge issues; app crashes; cluttered desktops; First Aid; no start-up disk; Wi-Fi problems; emergency boot drive; resetting Apple ID; Kernel panic; and it even mentions what is described as "The Dreaded Beachball of Doom". Heaven preserve us! So if you don't have quick access to our SeniorNet Help Centre, and Bruce Ralph's Apple group, then you could well find practical help here.

### **Android hunt n'peck no more**

One of the astonishing things that computers can do for us is to take dictation. But is that true for Android smartphones? They are, after all, small computers; and these days we expect computers to be able to do almost anything we want. This issue contains a relevant article, "How to use Android for dictation and transcription" (pp. 96 – 97). The article notes that, since Android 6.0, you can have Android Assistant ready to take dictation. But, it is suggested, that programme is "not much of a stenographer". The point is made that to dictate and transcribe any reasonably lengthy piece, you need a dedicated dictation app. The author has done a fair amount of research looking at such apps in the Play Store and has found one that was, he says, a "stand out". It is Speechnotes. It is free, and transcribed texts are saved automatically, with each file being given a default name that can easily be changed. He also mentions another app called SpeechTexter, noting that if you want to use it off-line, you'll need first to download the necessary language pack. How do you do this? Go to Settings "search for 'voice typing', then tap on Google Voice Typing and select Offline speech recognition". He notes that

“in addition to basic dictation and speech-to-text, you can use SpeechTexter to create SMS messages, emails and tweets”. Could be handy.

### **Quicksand alert**

Mac users are a sensitive lot and I mention the following article with some trepidation. The article is entitled “Run Windows apps on Mac” (pp. 92 – 93). Now why would we want to do that? – is their cry, and I understand the pain I’m causing them by the mere suggestion. But if, perchance, you are permitting yourself to think in this fraught area, the point has to be made that you can in fact run Windows apps on Mac machines, and for only \$US 41 you can get an excellent programme to do this. It is CrossOver for Mac 19.0. But, if like most SeniorNet members, you are looking for a free alternative, then the article notes that there is more than one available. For those souls willing to risk raised eyebrows in our Apple meetings, the one recommended here (and discussed in useful detail) is Porting Kit ([portingkit.com](http://portingkit.com)).

### **Call the chiropractor**

No review of the magazines would be complete without the mention of a backup article. In this issue that article is entitled “The best free personal backup solution” (pp. 98 – 99). With that extravagant claim in mind, I read on. Of course I’d expected the author to choose our old friend, Macrium Reflect. But in the event he didn’t even mention it. Instead he highlighted a programme called AOMEI Backupper Standard Edition 6.3, and he explains in some detail why. The programme is available at [www.ubackup.com](http://www.ubackup.com). Then helpfully he adds that an honourable mention should go to EaseUS To do Backup, available at [www.easeus.com](http://www.easeus.com).

## **Australia Personal Computer (April 2021)**

### **Keyless entry**

The main article here likely to be of interest to SeniorNet members concerns password managers. It pits two market leaders, Bitwarden and LastPass, against each other. Not surprisingly the article is called “Bitwarden vs LastPass” (pp. 34 – 35). Now relatively few SeniorNet members use password

managers. This is, I suspect, because they seem complicated. Nevertheless, as the article reminds us, “keeping your passwords strong and changing them regularly is important these days ....” The article is highly informative and balanced, but it is not a “how- to- do- it” account. To get a good idea of what’s involved I think we would need a SeniorNet session on the subject.

### **TECHLife Australia (April 2021)**

#### **Beginners’ luck**

The lead article in this issue is relevant to many of our newer members – and particularly so to those who have joined mainly to learn more about their smartphones. It’s called “Getting started with Android” (pp. 46 – 67), and is an impressive piece of work, well-written and well-illustrated. Look at the subjects covered: activate your new Android device; make your Android device fit you; get to grips with Settings; set up and use Wi-Fi; get connected with mobile data; change your wallpaper; choose your phone’s ring tone; secure your Android device; share contact details; set up Gmail on your device; and organise your Gmail emails. It’s an ideal adjunct to our well-supported Wellington SeniorNet course, the SmartPhone Drivers Licence.

#### **Lost the key**

George Bernard Shaw said that he never resisted temptation. The full quotation, which is not really up to his usual standard, is below. In any case, there is one temptation that he would be very strongly advised to resist, even though it does not give off vibes of immediate danger. That is the temptation to set a BIOS password. A piece in this issue, “BIOS lockout” (p. 86) tells the sad tale of someone with laptop contents which he wanted to protect; so he’d set the BIOS password. The article points out that BIOS passwords “can stop working for no logical reason, and ultimately do little to protect your machine – a determined thief could simply remove the hard drive and access any sensitive data directly.” In this case, the owner of the machine was never able to get access to it again. TECHLife described recovery efforts as futile. (The full quotation is: “I never resist temptation, because I have found that things that are bad for me do not tempt me.” Of course Shaw had never met a laptop.)

## Australia Personal Computer (May 2021)

### **More backup**

I noted that TECHLife Australia hadn't mentioned Macrium Reflect in its March article on backups. But this issue of the Australian Personal Computer keeps the faith in a piece called "Backup and reinstall" (p.86). The home site of Macrium Reflect is given, you are told how to create an image, choose a differential backup set, and create rescue media on a CD or a USB flash drive. All of this is very useful, but it's probably easier to learn how to operate this valuable programme by going to a SeniorNet class.

## TECHLife Australia (May 2021)

### **Good cloud base**

The lead article in this issue is "iCloud pro tips" (pp. 50 – 59). It's a comprehensive overview of how to use iCloud efficiently and cheaply. Apple users would find it very helpful. It's a sort of article that TECHLife does very well.

### **Goldcast**

Younger people than us have long been into streaming. By contrast many SeniorNet members have been reluctant to get their feet wet, but some of us have put on wadders and are now enjoying the use of Chromecast devices. There is much to be gained therefrom. Now there's a new Chromecast and it has a great deal to offer. The article "Chromecast with Google TV" (pp.32 – 33) enthusiastically spells it all out. It says that the new device is "a revelation – it ... improves a nearly perfect technology in a tangible way". In essence the updated device has "added a dedicated TV interface that you can control with a remote". Further, it gives you built-in access to most of the well-known streaming services – including that of Google's great rival, Amazon Prime Video. Moreover, it can stream in 1080p or 4K HDR. It's a TECHLife Editor's Choice, and in due course it could find its way onto many a Christmas list.

## High honour

Over the years we have realised that the TECHLife Editor's Choice is a substantial accolade. So when a relatively new browser called Brave was highlighted in the article "Brave web browser 1.17.3" (p. 49), we had to take notice. The bottom line is that this programme stands worthily alongside Firefox, Chrome and Safari.