



SENIORNET HUTT CITY INC

NEWSLETTER No. 37 - JUNE 2008

www.seniornet-huttcity.org.nz www.seniornethuttcity.blogspot.com

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'Member of the Federation of New Zealand SeniorNet Societies Inc'

WELCOME TO OUR JUNE 2008 NEWSLETTER



Greetings to you all,

The year is flying by - so much so, that the time for our AGM has come again. This year it will be held on Wednesday the 16 July at the Avalon Pavilion starting at 2 PM. You will see the formal notice later in the Newsletter.

Sadly, we are losing two of our stalwarts as both Louisa Coupland (Secretary) and Barbara Macdonald (Tutor Coordinator) after many years of wonderful and enthusiastic service to our organisation, have decided not to put their names forward for this year's Committee. They would have been known to many of you, particularly Louisa who dealt with the general membership. Barbara's involvement focused mainly on our Tutors but both were also heavily involved in helping members by Tutoring. The amount of commitment and involvement, both in time and energy, they have given to SeniorNet was so important. Unfortunately, literally the many, many hundreds of hours of work they did is probably not fully appreciated by the average member. We thank them both for their exceptional contribution and wish them well for the future.

A significant achievement was the release of the Hutt City designed **SeniorNet Administration Program (SNAP)**. You will read more about this outstanding effort by our people later in the Newsletter. SNAP has now been requested by the vast majority of the country's Learning Centres. You should all be tremendously proud of what has been accomplished by our extremely competent and dedicated team.

The Federation had its AGM in May and four of your Committee attended. We are pleased to advise that Colin Young of SeniorNet Porirua was elected as our local representative. We appreciate Colin putting his name forward.

As you will be aware, because many of our Tutors were to be away for the first week of Term 2, we had to postpone the start by one week. It is simple - unless people come forward and volunteer, in every capacity, we cannot run the classes.

Wayne Meredith



NOTHING ON TELEVISION

From Bill Bryson's book 'A short history of everything'
Tune your TV to any channel that doesn't receive a channel and about 1% of the static you see is accounted for by the remnants of the "Big Bang" that created the Universe. So, the next time you complain 'there is nothing on television' you can always watch the birth of the universe.



LOOK OUT – TERM 3 IS SNEAKING UP ON YOU

**PLEASE GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN ASAP
(Which in SeniorNet Hutt City speak means - NOW!!)**

Term 3 - Monday 21 July – Friday 12 September
Term 4 - Monday 13 October – Friday 5 December

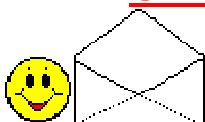
VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

TERM 2 – WE HAD TO CHANGE THE START DATE – WHY????

People soon find out when they get involved with SeniorNet that, it is a rewarding and enjoyable experience, but it can also be challenging as there's always a lot of work going on managing nearly 100 students a week. We had to move the start date for Term 2 out by one week due to a shortage of Tutors. It is a fact of life that we must have volunteers in all aspects of our work, Assistant Tutors as well as people in various Administration roles and as you know we are looking for a new Secretary. While these jobs require commitment, for some it is only a couple of hours a week, for others, it can be a lot more. But unless you are willing to give something back to help those who helped you– then you can't complain.

An applicant for the position of Chief Executive of a talcum powder company was asked how he would increase sales over the next 12 months. He was hired on the basis of this simple reply – I will make sure the holes in the top of the container are made twice as large!

CHANGE OF LEARNING CENTRE EMAIL ADDRESS



DID YOU NOTICE - OUR EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED TO
learn@seniornet-huttcity.org.nz

(ALTHOUGH THE OLD ADDRESS STILL WORKS, WE ASK YOU TO MAKE THE CHANGE TODAY)

Our Technical Team gives the background to these changes and improvements

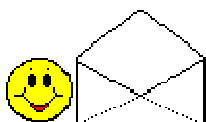
Webdrive is the Auckland based company that sponsor us by hosting our website for free. They also provide an email forwarding facility. This means that we can use our domain name as the base of our email address. So open up your address book and change the email address of our Learning Centre to:

learn@seniornet-huttcity.org.nz

We think that this is a neat name and much easier to remember alongside our web site address of: www.seniornet-huttcity.org.nz

At the end of the year we will be changing our ISP to TelstraClear. Not only will we get a better service and more options, they are providing member discounts and Federation sponsorship. If you have any of your telecommunications with the Telstra group and haven't let us know – please do so to enable us to take advantage of their sponsorship.

Don't forget - change our address in your Address Book now!!



AN EMAIL IDEA

You can automatically put a subject in the Subject box when you click on an Email link to answer an email to the Centre (or anywhere else) by adding -

a question mark ?
the word subject subject
an = sign =
followed by what is to be the subject of the email

For example, if we sent you an email and asked you to click the link to reply to the Centre and the subject of our communication was 'Word2007Class' we would put the link in the Email as -

learn@seniornet-huttcity.org.nz?subject=Word2007Class

This would put that subject automatically in the Subject Box, assisting us to sort the emails for which we have requested a response. As we get over 2000 emails a year, it is a huge and very time consuming job.

Try it by sending an email to yourself with your email address and the subject line as something and see for yourself. Of course, the usual email address rules apply - you cannot have a space in the Subject but could put for example a hyphen.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Sadly, for personal reasons, I have resigned as SeniorNet Secretary. I have enjoyed meeting and talking to the many people who have joined us for classes. However, I am hoping to remain with the Club in some other capacity and will no doubt see some of you from time to time.

Louisa Coupland



THE LAW CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE (LIKE US) WITH THE SPEED AND CONSEQUENCES OF TECHNOLOGY

Recently the Solicitor General forced the NZ Herald to pull a couple of stories from its website, alleging that they constituted a contempt of court. However, the stories had been online for nearly two years and were only now illegal because of the arrest and charging of a person.

This situation, yet again, shows the futility of our laws and that any attempt to suppress information today is like trying to nail jelly to a tree.

And what about all the archived print copies in the newspaper offices and libraries. Although these copies are also publicly accessible, the Solicitor General has not ordered that they be pulled from the shelves!!

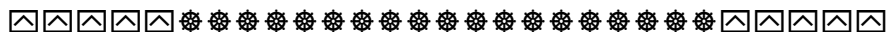
One day, those in charge of such things will finally work out; suppression orders in the information age are just a waste of time and effort.



We asked you to acknowledge receipt of our first emailed Newsletter. We are pleased many of you took the time to not only respond but to add some comment. An additional bonus is that we now send our Newsletter to over 80 other SeniorNets around the country which has generated many offers of reciprocation.

One member pointed out that they now have the opportunity to save each Newsletter which will let them refer back to any tips or articles very easily using the Search function.

A couple of members found they were unable to open the email. We can only assume the problem lies with them because the number was so small.



[BOUNCED \(RETURNED\) EMAILS FROM OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER](#)

Of concern was the number of emails that were returned (bounced) after we sent out the March Newsletter. Please, if you change your email address, advise us immediately. Unfortunately we don't have the volunteers to go through and contact the 'bouncers'. So, we can only hope they contact us when they realise they haven't received their latest Newsletter.

**SENIORNET HUTT CITY INC.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

WEDNESDAY 16th JULY 2008 AT 2.00PM

**TO BE HELD AT THE AVALON PAVILION, AVALON PARK,
TAITA DRIVE, LOWER HUTT.**

BUSINESS:

- 1 To receive the Society's Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2008.
- 2 Elect the Officers and Executive Committee for the year 2008-2009 as follows:
 - (a) Chairman: Deputy Chairman: Secretary: and Treasurer*
 - (b) Between four (4) and eight (8) Committee members*
- 3 Setting of Annual Subscription for the year 2009 - 2010
- 4 To appoint Auditors
- 5 To consider any Motion which may have been submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration.

(Please note that in terms of the Constitution; any such Motion is to be in the hands of the Secretary no later than 21 days prior to the Annual General Meeting).

Any financial member may be nominated for the Committee.

Nomination forms may be obtained from:

**The Secretary,
P O Box 44-234,
Lower Hutt, 5040; or
Phone 560 3160**

Please leave a message if necessary.

Nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary at least 7 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

MORE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION

GUEST SPEAKER

THE GUEST SPEAKER AT OUR AGM WILL BE **GRANT SIDAWAY**, EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE FEDERATION. AS THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TO A TALK BY GRANT IN THE PAST WILL KNOW, HE IS ALWAYS INTERESTING AND ENTERTAINING. SO PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY TODAY AND LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, YOUR COMMITTEE CORDIALLY INVITES MEMBERS TO JOIN THEM FOR LIGHT REFRESHMENTS. SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY MATTERS YOU WISH TO DISCUSS WHILE YOU MIX AND MINGLE WITH THE COMMITTEE AND ITS SUPPORT TEAM, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DO SO.



FOR CATERING PURPOSES WE NEED TO KNOW IF YOU INTEND TO COME TO THE AGM

IF **YES** - YOU DO INTEND TO COME, AND HAVE **NOT** RECEIVED THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL THEN PLEASE PHONE US ON **560 – 3160** (LEAVE A MESSAGE) OR PHONE THE SECRETARY ON **589-1556** TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE.

THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED THIS BY EMAIL PLEASE REPLY BY RETURN EMAIL WITH THE SUBJECT "**AGM**" TO -

learn@seniornet-huttcity.org.nz



SORRY KAPITI - In our last Newsletter we mentioned that Kapiti SeniorNet had to call a Special Meeting to consider closing down. Sorry - we got our SeniorNets mixed and Kapiti was not the Centre concerned. The good news is they are in fact in very good heart and looking forward to another successful year. Our apologies to Kapiti.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

These have been sent out by mail and we ask you to please pay promptly. As we are about to send out reminders, if you haven't paid by now please do so as soon as possible. A BIG thank you to those who have already paid.



As you will read, the really **BIG** news was the release to the other SeniorNets of the Hutt City designed **SeniorNet Administration Program** – SNAP.

Federation AGM - This was held in Wellington on the 7th May and four members of your Committee attended along with about 25 others from all over the country. Colin Young of the Porirua Learning Centre was elected as our Regional Representative replacing Brian Nelson who stood down.

The Chairman's Report, Financials etc are available for any member to read. If you are interested, please contact one of your Committee. Our aim is to ensure as much of the Federation material as possible is made available to members, but as so much information is generated this is not always feasible except for the most important items. The highlights from the Federation Newsletter are always published on our Blog.

Some Federation statistics: It returned \$20-00 for each \$1- 00 'invested' by its member societies - 85 Centres are in the Federation - 13 Regional Meetings were held - 6 Regional Training sessions were facilitated by Grant - 5383 inward and 7919 outward emails were received/sent by the Federation - 3853 inward Freephone calls were received totalling near 13,000 minutes - 22,410 enrolments were received from 10,316 members - about 63% members took a Course during the year.

(So our Executive Officer has been very busy. More details are on our Blog and it should be noted that these figures do not include Centres that did not make any funding claims.)

' OLD HANDS, NEW SKILLS '

The Federation website www.seniornet.org.nz has a fascinating study called 'Old Hands, New Skills' which is well worth reading. It is about how seniors learn and covers a lot of the teaching and learning at SeniorNet Nelson. An interesting point noted is that if you want to lodge a complaint with Telecom online, it takes 12 mouse clicks and the writer thought most people gave up after 3-4. They wouldn't have designed it that way on purpose would they!!!

Inside a Bowling Alley: "Please be quiet. We need to hear a pin drop.
I worked as a lumberjack, but I just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the axe.

SNAP SeniorNet Administration Program

What is SNAP? It is an administration database program designed by our own Brian Thomas and Geoff Honey. They were assisted by others from Hutt City and testing and feedback from other Learning Centre members.

Grant Sidaway in releasing its availability to the Federation Clubs said –

“ SNAP is a user-friendly administration database program specifically designed to meet the administration needs of SeniorNet Learning Centres nationwide. It provides for the administration of membership matters, scheduling of courses, allocation of members to courses, it produces various reports, including invoices and associated information required by the Federation. One of its main features is that data is entered only once and actions are initiated by clicking buttons.

Short demonstrations of preliminary versions of SNAP have been given at recent Regional Meetings.

We are most grateful to SeniorNet Hutt City for the work they have done in creating this system. In particular Brian Thomas and Geoff Honey for the many hours of detailed work they have put into the engineering of SNAP. They needed to customise the system which they had developed for the Hutt City Learning Centre and considerable checking of SNAP's functions has taken place since December 2007, by Ian Turner and Ray MacDonald using actual data from their Learning Centres. They also put in many hours of effort to ensure SNAP is easy to use and workable.

How much does it cost?

A conservative estimate to create SNAP for us by a commercial organisation would be \$30,000. In keeping with the spirit of SeniorNet, SeniorNet Hutt City and the authors of SNAP are making the program available to Federation Learning Centres for \$5.00 to cover production of the CD and postage. "

Grant Sidaway



**THIS WAS A SIMPLY STUNNING CONCLUSION TO HUNDREDS OF HOURS
OF HARD WORK BY ALL INVOLVED!**

P U B L I C I T Y



We believe the profile of SeniorNet Hutt City not only needs to be lifted but a concerted effort to advertise our presence in the Community is required by every member. This task needs some direction and a sub-committee has been established for this purpose. However they cannot do it alone. We need members to help by offering to do mail drops their neighbourhood, arranging flyers to be placed at organisations such as bowling clubs, RSA, golf, swimming pools, libraries etc. If you want to help please contact us either by email or leave a message on the answerphone. The Chairman is happy to speak to groups like Probus etc. His talk covers not only SeniorNet but technology matters in general.



WE ARE **BIG** IN THE BIG APPLE

RECENTLY WE GOT AN EMAIL FROM A SENIORNET MEMBER IN ARMONK, NEW YORK ASKING FOR A COPY OF LOUISA'S TYPING COURSE WHICH WE WERE HAPPY TO PROVIDE. THE WEB IS AMAZING AND CERTAINLY MAKES THE WORLD SMALLER. ○○○○○○○○○○

TIPS and HINTS

A trap for young players is the full stop at the end of a web address if it is at the end of a sentence. As they say - It canna be! A webpage address such as www.tvnz.co.nz. must be typed without the full stop.

SEARCHES BY DATE

Here is a neat tip - the Google Date Dropdown Box

You may want to search for something using Google on a time basis. For example, say you wanted to search for 'Obama' news for the last 24 hours. With this Google trick you can focus your search over a specific time period.

How ? First go to www.google.com and putting Obama in the Search Box we get -

<http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=obama&btnG=Google+Search>

Next, just add **&as_qdr=d** to the end of the URL (address) and press Enter to get

http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=obama&btnG=Google+Search&as_qdr=d

You will now see a Date Dropdown Box appear next to the Search Box. Using the Reveal Arrow will give you some further date/time options. Also by changing the =d to d5 for 5 days, or w5 for five weeks, or y5 for 5 years you can change your parameters. Try it now!!

Did you get this by post but have an Email address?



If you answered YES then please help our volunteers as well as help us save us money by emailing us your address as soon as possible at

learn@seniornet-huttcity.org.nz

Our Secretary has resigned

We are looking for someone to take her place

PLEASE HELP US TO FILL THIS VACANCY

She says it's easy:

- Taking applications from the public – phone could be directed to your home if you wish.
- Receiving and sending emails to Tutors and members.
- Assist at AGM & various meetings as required.
- The secretary will be an executive committee member, and will attend monthly committee meetings.
- General Secretarial duties.
- The usual typing – the odd letters and ensuring forms are updated.

Please phone Louisa on 589.1556 and she will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Alternatively, you may phone Wayne on 569.6997

or email @ meredithwv@yahoo.com



SENIORNET MERCHANDISE

As members know the Federation always has available various merchandise and discounts on their website. It now has made available Polo Shirts, Caps, Vests as well as Flash Drives. Full details are on our Blog. Should any member want purchase any item, please email us and we shall email you an order form which is to be returned with your cheque. Please note that all orders must be in by the 25 June.

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IS PARKING COSTING YOU MORE THAN IT SHOULD?

When coming to the Centre to either teach or be taught a good place to park is at the Riverbank Car Park. Before parking get a parking ticket from the Pay & Display Machine on the paying side (50c will provide more than half an hour which will give you some time before and after each class), display this on your

dashboard and go over to the 2 hour free area. This venue is nice and handy to us and saves the worry of feeding parking meters. One of our members has contacted the Lower Hutt City Council Parking and was told that this was OK by them.

TUTOR REPORT

Barbara Macdonald

This will be my last report as I'm giving up the job of Tutor Coordinator from this term. Ann A. will be taking over from me and I'm sure will be a very capable successor.

We've had very few new tutors offering their help so far this year and we really would like to add to our ranks.

Many thanks to all our Term 2 Tutors, including those who are filling in from time to time, and of course, Louisa, Brian T. and Brian P. and others who keep all the wheels running smoothly behind the scenes. You've all done a great job. I know that some tutors organise relievers and I may not hear about it. If you fall into that category, don't feel that your help isn't appreciated. We value you all.

My grateful thanks to Louisa, who has been a tower of strength to me as she has to all of us. She will be greatly missed from her job as secretary but I'm sure she'll never be far away and may I hope she will have more time to return as a tutor as I hope to do, myself. Thank you also to all the tutors who have been so ready to take over all demands made upon them. You're a great bunch of people.

From the STUDENT CO-ORDINATOR

Jeanette Gregor

TIME TO GET TERM 3 UNDER WAY.

Greetings to all members.

This term we have about 100 members in classes, and as you will know, this takes a lot of time to organise. A number of members are waiting until the very last minute to enquire and try to get a place in a class. This is just not fair on all the people who work behind the scene to make this possible.

Please help us to lighten the load on our volunteers and send in your applications (with your cheque) as soon as possible.

As our Class Schedule is mostly dependent upon your application requests, we have attached an application form for courses to enable you to apply immediately. We will endeavour to hold a class if we have enough students and Tutors for the subject.

When you are given a place in a class, your payment must be sent to our PO Box 44-234, immediately as we cannot hold places for members who have not paid for their classes.

Thankyou

Jeanette

Here are some error messages I really can understand – How about you!!

