



SENIORNET HUTT CITY INC

NEWSLETTER No. 48 - MARCH 2011

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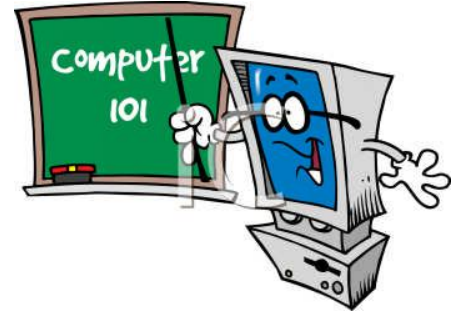
'Member of the Federation of New Zealand SeniorNet Societies Inc'

Greetings to you all,

What tragedy we have had this year.

Firstly Pike River, then two major earthquakes in Christchurch followed by the latest in Japan.

We were in Vietnam at the time of the second Christchurch quake and got a text from our daughter who told us of the disaster and later that all our friends were safe. We then watched Ch 9 Australia who took the entire TV1 newsfeed. Naturally we then went to the Net to send emails and to read the local news from the DomPost etc.



On the Hotel TV they had NHK Japan TV in English. Interestingly, we saw an interview with a Japanese Professor who was an earthquake expert and was about to leave for NZ. He spoke excellent English and knew us well (mentioned Petone and the Hutt) and said it is partially our own fault.

We had delayed strengthening our buildings; we had given the owners too much lead time to do it. In Japan they gave them a choice - fix it in 12 months or so or we bulldoze/condemn it (they learnt from Kobe; over 6000 dead) - but in mitigation he did say our problem was that we were a poor country (compared to Japan yes - to Vietnam ??- although they probably have more resources than us) and we couldn't afford it.

Plus, he said that with the type of quake (the level of liquefaction) maybe it was impossible at a viable cost with today's technology to protect against quakes like this. This was one thing he was going to try and find out on his visit.

As far as we are aware, our SeniorNet colleagues' rooms in Christchurch have come through the upheaval. But, it does bring to mind our own requirements at Hutt City. We have various instructions displayed as to the assembly point in the event of a calamity and have water stored. Next time you are in the Centre please take a few minutes to read the instructions. We will be keeping this uppermost in our minds and if any member has ideas how to improve our preparedness at the Centre please contact us.

Once again we are seeing the problems with some people being uninsured. Why they don't make it compulsory (and don't get me started on the same applying to cars) is beyond me. At SeniorNet we have business interruption insurance. At the time we thought the SARS scare might close us down but the \$1000 per month rent would continue; but earthquake now looms large in our mind.

The Committee hopes all your family and friends are well and safe at this extremely difficult time.

Wayne Meredith

TRIANGLE OF LIFE – HOAX/URBAN MYTH EARTHQUAKE EMAIL



There is an email circulating (the usual send to everybody you know!!) that a so called Triangle of Life is the best option in a quake. NO it is not. NZ Civil Defence rubbish it as does the US Red Cross.

Some advice and information about what to do before, during and after an earthquake.

Before an earthquake

Develop a household emergency plan and prepare emergency items so that you can cope with being on your own for up to 3 days (water, water, water).

- ◆ Check if you are in the [tsunami evacuation zone](#) (the Hutt City Council will be able to tell you)
- ◆ Find out what arrangements your school has for keeping your children safe.
- ◆ Identify safe places within your home, school or work. A safe place is:
 - under a strong table, remember to hold onto the legs
 - next to an interior wall
 - somewhere close to you - no more than a few steps, or 2 metres away - to avoid injury from flying debris
- ◆ Check your household insurance policy for cover and amount.
- ◆ Seek qualified advice to make sure your house is secured to its foundations. Make sure that any renovations comply with the building code.
- ◆ Secure heavy items of furniture to the floor or wall.

Google the [EQC website](#) and find out how to quake-safe your home.



During an earthquake

- If you are inside a building, move no more than a few steps - drop, cover and hold.
- If you are outside, move no more than a few steps, then - drop, cover and hold.
- If you are driving, pull over and stop. Stay in your vehicle until the shaking stops.
- If you are at the beach or near the coast, and the earthquake is very strong or lasts over a minute, drop, cover and hold.
Then move to higher ground immediately in case a tsunami follows the quake.

Earthquake safety fact sheet <> After an earthquake

- You should expect to feel aftershocks.
- Help those around you if you can.
- If you are in a damaged building, try to get outside and find a safe, open place.
- Do not go sightseeing to look at the damage the earthquake has caused.
- If you smell gas, try and turn off the gas main outside the building, if it is safe to do so.
- If you see sparks, broken wires or evidence of electrical system damage, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box if it is safe to do so.
- If your property is damaged, take notes and photographs for insurance purposes.
- Listen to the radio for information and advice.

A response from the UK IRD some years ago –

Dear Mr A.....,

I am writing to you to express our thanks for your prompt reply to our latest communication, and also to answer some of the points you raise. I will address them, as ever, in order.



Firstly, I must take issue with your description of our last as a "begging letter". It might perhaps more properly be referred to as a "tax demand". This is how we, at the Inland Revenue, have always, for reasons of accuracy, traditionally referred to such documents.

Secondly, your frustration at our adding to the "endless stream of crapulent whining and panhandling vomited daily through the letterbox on to the doormat" has been noted. However, whilst I have naturally not seen the other letters to which you refer, I would cautiously suggest that their being from "pauper councils, Lombardy pirate banking houses and pissant gas-mongerers" might indicate that your decision to "file them next to the toilet in case of emergencies" is at best a little ill-advised.

In common with my own organisation, it is unlikely that the senders of these letters do see you as a "lackwit bumpkin" or, come to that, a "sodding charity". More likely they see you as a citizen of Great Britain, with a responsibility to contribute to the upkeep of the nation as a whole.

Which brings me to my next point. Whilst there may be some spirit of truth in your assertion that the taxes you pay "go to shore up the canker-blighted, toppling folly that is the Public Services", a moment's rudimentary calculation ought to disabuse you of the notion that the government in any way expects you to "stump up for the whole damned party" yourself. The estimates you provide for the Chancellor's disbursement of the funds levied by taxation, whilst colourful, are, in fairness, a little off the mark. Less than you seem to imagine is spent on "junkets for Bunterish lickspittles" and "dancing whores", whilst far more than you have accounted for is allocated to, for example, "that box-ticking facade of a university system".

A couple of technical points arising from direct queries:

1. The reason we don't simply write "Muggins" on the envelope has to do with the vagaries of the postal system;
2. You can rest assured that "sucking the very marrows of those with nothing else to give" has never been considered as a practice because even if the Personal Allowance didn't render it irrelevant, the sheer medical logistics involved would make it financially unviable.

I trust this has helped. In the meantime, whilst I would not in any way wish to influence your decision one way or the other, I ought to point out that even if you did choose to "give the whole foul jamboree up and go and live in India" you would still owe us the money. Please forward it by Friday.

Yours sincerely,
H J Lee, Customer Relations.

(APART FROM THE OBVIOUS (WATER ETC) WHAT DID CHRISTCHURCH TEACH US TO HAVE – CASH – AS THE ATMS ETC WILL BE DOWN YOU NEED CASH – SO STASH SOME CASH)



In January Gisborne fire fighters were asked to free a guinea pig stuck inside a computer printer. A woman arrived at the fire station carrying a printer with the guinea pig inside it. After an hour they got it out and it was expected to make a full recovery.



Noel Leeming Group Partner with SeniorNet Federation

As we announced by email and in our Blog the SeniorNet Federation is delighted to advise members that it has arranged a discount and sponsorship deal with the Noel Leeming Group and its 90+ retail stores nationwide.

The discount deal for SeniorNet Members

When making a purchase from any Noel Leeming Store a SeniorNet member simply states that they are a member of SeniorNet and the salesperson will apply a discount to the sale. Discounts apply to almost every item, generally at the rate of cost + 12%.

The Sponsorship deal for the Federation

In addition to the generous discounts for members the Noel Leeming Group will pay a rebate of 2% to the SeniorNet Federation on every sale. This will be a great help with funding the Federation and the Learning Centres.



Extra Special Deal on Freeview Boxes

If you buy a Freeview box from Noel Leeming, you will not only receive the discount on the purchase but you will get the installation done for an amazing \$32.50! (Half the normal price).

The Noel Leeming/SeniorNet Partnership is a long term arrangement so remember this when purchasing all your electronics or home appliances both now and in the future.

Ultra fast broadband sceptics need to lift their sights

Ernie Newman of the Telecommunications Users Organisation says people who can't see how New Zealand will recoup its investment in Ultra Fast Broadband (UFB) need their vision adjusted.

The Government promised a \$1.5 billion broadband spend and the UFB sceptics should lift their sights, Newman says.

"People either are visionaries about this stuff or they're not. Most people accept that if you put the infrastructure in, the applications will quickly follow. The difficulty is when some insist on trying to quantify the value of tomorrow's connectivity based on yesterday's product."

Looking for a UFB payback from faster access to email, for instance, misses the point, Newman says.

"The killer application for dial-up was email. The end-game tomorrow is something entirely different. This is an enabling technology that will completely change the range of services that operate across it."

He cites the change to the airline industry because of online booking as an example of what is to come.

"Most would hate going back to the situation where you had to make a phone call in order to book a flight. The key is unlimited bandwidth at affordable prices."

Businesses will then interact with customers in new ways. For example: flower exporters who let buyers take a virtual glasshouse tour via the internet, selecting the blooms they want before they're picked.

For most industries UFB will completely change the business model and offer a lot of efficiencies. But the precise way in which that might apply differs from industry to industry.

Treasury in 2006 put New Zealand labour productivity at 30% behind Australia, 44% behind the US and 25% below the OECD average, despite our working longer than any OECD country except Iceland.

A DECADE ON

A research report based on more than 115,000 weekly interviews beginning in January 2001, shows Kiwi's are increasingly plugged into technology and out of tune with our family and friends.

Monthly computer use jumped from 60% to 80% (some would find it almost unbelievable that 20% don't touch a computer for over a month!!) and monthly social interaction with family or friends fell from 55% to 60%.

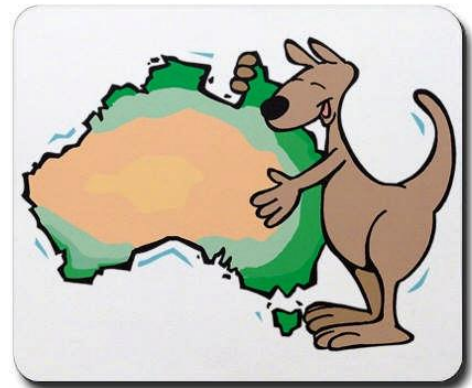
Our increasingly stay-at-home society has discovered the joys of fast broadband, Facebook and 3G phones, while neglecting sports and the arts.

Nearly nine out of 10 Kiwis now own personal computers, up from 67% per cent in 2001 while having digital cameras, iPods and plasma TVs skyrocketed.

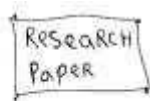
Read and weep.



According to a recent survey the average Australian has a broadband quota of **45GB**.



Whaaaaaat!!!!!!



In NZ probably the average plan is under 1GB – and very expensive by Australian standards. It is certainly going to be a long time before we will be able to use YouTube even for a reasonable amount and as for downloading films.....

In Australia iiNet launched a **terabyte** per month plan. Other major ISPs have since rushed to launch similar plans.

"Australian broadband users were already the lucky beneficiaries of growing download allowances," said a leading Internet firm "Since 2006, the average residential fixed broadband consumption has more than doubled and download allowances by June 2010 — before terabyte plans emerged — were already averaging 45GB per residential subscriber."

At our rate of 'progress' this type of allowance should arrive in New Zealand sometime next century – if we are lucky.

Microsoft Help calling you to help you with a problem on your computer- Yeah Right

I had a call last night from a man with an accent. He was from the 'International Microsoft Windows Help Desk' ... Apparently my computer is full of dangerous viruses. The kind man offered to help me solve this problem. I told him that would be great but I have a hearing problem. After 20 minutes of him shouting instructions at me he was starting to get a bit irritated. He then asked for my internet password. I spelled it out for him (EMMAFUGWET). I told him to yell it back to me three times which he did. The call then ended abruptly.

It all began with an iPhone...

March was when my son celebrated his 17th birthday, and I got him an iPhone.

He just loved it. Who wouldn't?

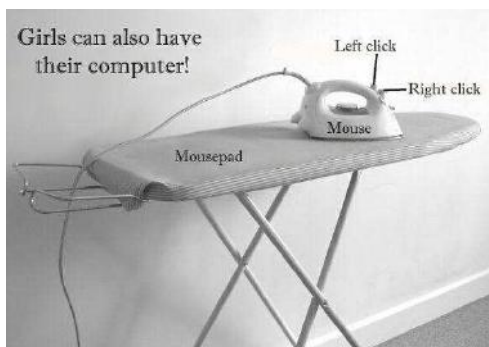


I celebrated my birthday in July, and my wife made me very happy when she bought me an iPad.

My daughter's birthday was in August so I got her an iPod Touch.



September came by so for her birthday I got my wife an iRon.



It was around then that the fight started.....

What the wife failed to recognise is that the iRon can be integrated into the home network with the iWash, iCook and iClean.

This inevitably activates the iNag reminder service!



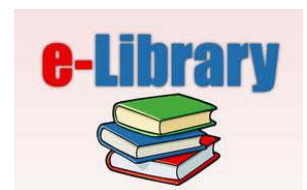
DO YOU HAVE AN E-BOOK?

While so-called 'silver surfers' are often thought to be more cautious about new technology (except at SeniorNet Hutt City!) than younger people, new research shows that, where e-books are concerned, they are leading the pack.

In the UK 6% of over-55s own an e-book reader, compared with 5% of those aged 18-24 – the older brigade went 47% Kindle, 31% iPad, 14% Sony Reader.

The over-50s are a vital part of any publisher's audience. They are typically heavy book readers, and up until now they were staunchly traditional in their attitudes to reading. But these new figures show that they are beginning to embrace the electronic book.

What about libraries? Many US libraries let you download a book for xx days after which it becomes unreadable – unless you renew it of course



E-book sales have increased enormously over the last year, particularly in the US

where an estimated 15 per cent of all book sales are e-book and growing fast as for example Man Booker Prize winner, Howard Jacobson's *The Finkler Question*: 42% US sales in its first month were electronic.

Earlier this year, Amazon said that sales of e-books for its Kindle e-reader had overtaken paperback sales from its US site for the first time.

One unexpected benefit for some is that, because e-readers don't have a cover, your fellow commuters don't know what you're reading. Booksellers have reported strong sales for types of books that would normally be considered embarrassing, such as Mills & Boon novels or adult books, simply because they can be read in relative privacy.

OLD - 1950's - 20th Century



A raucous jangling alarm wakes you.

You turn on your radio and after what seems forever the valves warm up and your radio emits sounds. If you are lucky you have a choice of about 2 or 3 stations.

The only news will be a static filled BBC broadcast.

You don't like the program so you put on a scratchy vinyl 78 RPM record (you may even have to wind up the gramophone).

You change the record 3 or so minutes later; a process that takes 15-20 seconds.

You wonder how your application for a telephone is coming along – the last time you enquired the waiting time was down to 9 months. However, no worries about choosing a colour - you can have black or black!

On the train or bus to work you read the morning newspaper which was delivered along with your milk. It is annoying that recently they stopped delivering the bread.

At work you sometimes use a phone but usually you write letters to communicate with customers or if it is really important you can send a telegram. As for a toll call - as they are very expensive they must be approved.

Going home you buy another newspaper and when you arrive home you clear your mailbox.

That night you listen to the radio – no news – if anything major happened from about midday on you will read about it in the morning. Time for bed.

NEW - 2000's - 21st Century

Your radio alarm comes on to the station of your choice – and you can choose from about 20 stations.

Although you have had a listen to the radio news you decide to have a quick look at the Breakfast News on TV while you boot up your



computer. You have a choice of several TV Channels but you prefer the local news programme to the satellite feeds of the BBC, SKY, CNN etc.

With one eye on the news (in colour) you read your emails and the news headlines that Google has searched for you to view while you have been asleep in accordance with your pre-programming. You also have a quick read of the Dom-Post and the NZ Herald – as they are free online you no longer buy a newspaper.

Before heading off to work you decide to drop a few new songs onto your iPod to listen to on the train. It's a nice day so you decide to walk to the train and on the way your mobile plays a snatch of the William Tell Overture – a text message has arrived. You read the message from your son in London and reply as you walk telling him that you will Skype by webcam with him tonight. You muse, it is amazing you will speak and see him in the UK this evening for free – something that even a phone call cost several dollars just a few years ago.

On the train your phone rings and you talk for a few minutes with your daughter in Auckland. On the way your wife also phones to remind you to book the hotel in Sydney online today. You in turn remind her that a TV programme that you are interested in is showing at 2 PM today and ask her to record it. She again has to tell you that there is nothing to do, MySky remembers your tastes and what programmes you want and does it automatically. You think I must get one of those devices that record and skip the adverts. On the train you boot up your Kindle e-reader and continue to read the story you downloaded last week.

That day you are flat out. Over 100 emails greet you and the anti-spam detector missed nearly 50 spam messages. Your voice mail also has a dozen messages – you make sure they are not diverted to your cell phone as you try to leave some work at work.

During the morning you have a Video Conference with colleagues in Perth,

Melbourne and Christchurch. One mentions that the firms toll call costs, once over \$10,000 a year, are now virtually nil thanks to Voice Over the Internet (VOIP).

There are some important documents to read which they decided to fax from Perth rather than email.

After leaving work you make four or five work related phone calls on the train and check the latest news headlines texted to your phone. You then decide to relax listening to your

iPod. Once there were evening newspapers but that was many years ago. On the journey you see a crash on the motorway and snap a couple of pictures and immediately email them to your home.

That night you webcam your son, watch some TV then decide to view a DVD before heading off to bed.

Your CD player plays some quiet music in the background wafting you off to sleep.

TWENTY MILLION FAMILY RECORDS GO ONLINE

New Zealanders will be able to delve through their family history as more than 20 million family history records are now online.

The records cover 140 years of N Z history from 1842-1981 from six major historical collections - the New Zealand Electoral Rolls 1853-1981, Canterbury Provincial Rolls 1868-1874, Jury Lists 1842-1862, Maori Voter and Electoral Rolls 1908 and 1919, Maori Land Claims 1858-1980 and New Zealand Naturalisations 1843-1981.

All the collections can be found at www.ancestry.com.au have been digitised and individual records fully indexed. The website also hosts more than 800 million British records.

BE WARNED!!! Facebook News Feeds Are Full of Malware

<http://www.lockergnome.com/it/2010/11/24/facebook-news-feed-malware/>

Facebook, a great source for malware! That appears to be the message considering the sheer volume of rubbish found within the Facebook news feed according to BitDefender. Worse is that BitDefender is reporting that 60% of those Facebook threats are coming from third parties. So blocking these threats is not going to be that easy.

In most cases, one can avoid the majority of these threats by not blindly clicking on every idiot thing posted to Facebook as if somehow Facebook is going to magically make you safe. The fact is, you are on your own here. Facebook is simply going to do squat to make you safe. Its horrid security practices have made that clear.

So while some select malware prevention techniques practiced by the likes of companies like BitDefender are fine, it doesn't help those of us not using them.



Treat learning about your computer as you would learning any other challenging task but keep in mind it should be fun.

When you go home from a class put time aside to play about with and experiment. You will make mistakes but that is how you learn. Remember **Practice Makes Perfect**. Keep in mind that your Tutor has taken time out from their day to go through the coming lesson. So why shouldn't you take time out from your day to go through the last lesson. The only way the real computer gurus got there was by not being afraid to ask the so-called 'dumb' questions. What is one of the great impediments to computer mastery? You don't ask questions and learn because you don't want to appear stupid.

Following Mark Twain's adage, *you think it's better to keep your mouth shut and appear stupid than open it and remove all doubt.*

Here's another thought: *You don't know what you don't know!* So come along and learn something new. Rediscover the explorer in you. There are lots of courses available - check the last page of this newsletter.

TUTOR REPORT

Another term has gone by and we are into the first term of a new year. There has been a slight change in the type of courses that students are interested in. Genealogy and Picasa are two courses sought after by students although there is still an interest in say Computer Skills.

Your committee is looking closely at the possibility of reviewing the format of courses but this will not affect the programme for Term 2 this year.

Many thanks to tutors who are tutoring or assisting during Term 1, 2011.

Allan Young

Tutor Co-ordinator

STUDENT CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Term 2 is just around the corner. What class are you going to do? Yes it is time to be getting your planning cap on and deciding on your course for Term 2. We will be offering a number of classes so ring and get your place and remember that the early birds get the choice of times that we are offering.

Don't forget if you have an idea about what you would like to do, let us know as we may be able to arrange that for you. We are open to all suggestions.

Please ring me to book your place, the timetable should be out very soon.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Jeanette Gregor

Student Coordinator

WAIVER

From time to time some of our members voluntarily give help and advice to other members on matters relating to computers, associated equipment and software. This help or advice is taken at the recipient's risk and imposes no responsibility or liability of any kind either on those providing such help or advice or on SeniorNet Hutt City Inc. This includes all information provided in whatever fashion including emails, Newsletter or programs provided on the Club Data CD. All SeniorNet Hutt City produced Courses are copyright to it, not to the individual authors, or to the copyright holder as noted.

Any personal items including Laptops, Digital Cameras, Cell Phones, Flash Drives and the like are brought to the Centre at your own risk. SeniorNet Hutt City and any of its members cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage.

We would urge all members who are contemplating removing items such as Laptops from their home to carefully check their Insurance Policy or with their Insurance Company to ensure the item is fully covered.

Acknowledgements - *We acknowledge some items in this Newsletter are taken from the Newsletters of other SeniorNets.*