



## SENIORNET HUTT CITY INC

### NEWSLETTER No. 50 - SEPTEMBER 2011

[www.seniornet-huttcity.org.nz](http://www.seniornet-huttcity.org.nz)   [www.seniornet-huttcity.blogspot.com](http://www.seniornet-huttcity.blogspot.com)  
Suite 202, 2<sup>ND</sup> Floor, Hutt City Dental Centre, 14 Laings Road, Lower Hutt.  
P.O. Box 44 234 Lower Hutt 5040 Ph: (04) 560 3160

[learn@seniornet-huttcity.org.nz](mailto:learn@seniornet-huttcity.org.nz)

---

---

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

---

---

Greetings once again,

Another AGM successfully negotiated with some welcome new blood onto the Committee with Bill Beard, Jexi Keown and Geoff Sandell joining us.

We had an excellent afternoon and once the formal requirements were attended to we were enlightened by an extremely attention-grabbing talk from Jon Duffy, the Trust and Safety Officer at TradeMe. Talking with him later he was delighted at the response during question time and took away three or four ideas on how to improve their service and systems.

Our catering did run a bit close as only 30 people said they were coming but over 50 turned up! However, the more the merrier.

The Committee decided to honour three outstanding members of our organisation by making them our first ever Honorary Life Members.

The three who have served us all so loyally and enthusiastically over the past decade were -

Jaye Howey - Jaye has been involved from the beginning and has served as Tutor and Student Co-ordinator, then after taking up the position of Deputy Chair had to take over the Chair unexpectedly at a difficult time. Upon relinquishing the Chair she continued to give unstinting service as she then acted as our Minute Secretary and remained on the Committee as the Immediate Past Chair. Her wise counsel and guidance over the years has been of immense help.

Jeanette Gregor - she was a member of Wellington SeniorNet before joining us when we commenced; Jeanette has been a Tutor but has really become known to just about everybody after taking up the position of Student Co-ordinator; a position that is enormously difficult and demanding not only time wise but one that required a breadth of knowledge due to the many systems now operating.

Jeanette has handled the job superbly; demonstrating great patience to ensure all students received the best of service at all times.

Our third recipient was our current Deputy Chair, Brian Thomas. He was acknowledged not only for his contribution to the Technical Team and his work as our Deputy but in particular the enormous amount of work he put into developing the SeniorNet Administration Program (SNAP) which enables SeniorNets throughout the country to effortlessly carry out their numerous administrative functions. It is estimated that a commercial program of the type Brian

developed would cost in excess of \$30,000. SNAP is now used by over 50 SeniorNets nationwide.

As I outlined in the last Newsletter your team have been hard at work and after much testing and discussion, particularly with our Tutors, we introduced our new concept of shorter Courses and greater interaction of our Tutors with those who would be attending their class.

Generally things have gone very well although we are still refining our systems as we go. The devolvement of the Student enrolments from one central person to a spreading of the workload amongst our Tutors, with the Student Co-ordinator only looking after the new members has relieved a lot of the pressure and has certainly been worthwhile.

This year has been dubbed the "Year of Revitalisation of SeniorNet" by the Federation and we consider the moves we have made have certainly revitalised us.

*Wayne Meredith*

PS. Look for the photos from the AGM later in the newsletter.



Saved by Facebook

In the holidays my daughter in law and I with the 3 grandchildren set off to Raumati to visit a cousin. Only problem was I had not checked her address. After driving around streets with Tree names, then Bird names fruitlessly, Christine had the brilliant idea that Charlotte's phone number was likely on her Facebook page. Fortunately I had my cell phone, and it was charged and in credit, so Christine phoned Richard who was working at home and talked him through looking on her computer for Charlotte's Facebook page. And there was her cell number, so with charged phone we were able to call her and establish the correct address. I never thought I'd be grateful to Facebook But it does raise a warning if you have your phone number on your page you never know who might find it and call you. Christine tutored a class for SeniorNet, a Beginners Guide to Facebook in September. Thank you Christine. Watch out for our next Facebook advertising!

Cathie Ellis



Can't bring it on a plane  
It could be a **bomb**



It's okay, just go put  
it in that trashcan.



# 2 THINGS YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT YOUR COMPUTER.....

## 1. THE OPERATING SYSTEM - For example - XP, VISTA, WINDOWS 7

This is like the engine of a car – it runs your PC. It is important that you know what system your PC has not only for you but for us.

## 2. THE PROGRAM YOU ARE USING - For example

WORD PROCESSING – OPEN OFFICE, MSWORD 2003, MSWORD 2007

EMAIL – OUTLOOK EXPRESS, OUTLOOK, WINDOWS LIVE MAIL

### WHY??

**Because** both the operating system and the program you are using have different processes, features and appearance it is absolutely vital that both we and you know what you have so you are allocated to the correct class.

If you think this is a hassle, think how difficult it is for us to ensure students are allocated correctly and also the need to keep re-writing programs as they continuously change. Your tutors must also continually keep up to date and often have to teach using systems that, in many cases, they do not have on their own PC's.

So, we ask that you please find out precisely what you do have and accurately advise us. If you have any doubt whatsoever as to what you are running please enquire as it is a waste of time, both yours and ours, if you are placed in the wrong class.



Did you know New Zealand officially went metric on 14 December 1976 - but just look at how many items are still quoted in Imperial. A reason often given for this is that the USA still uses the 'old' system (one of only about 3 countries that officially use it - the others being Liberia and Mynamar).



**CHANGE:** "It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change." - **Charles Darwin** "People don't resist change. They resist being changed!" - **Peter Senge** "Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself." - **Leo Tolstoy**

"The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking." - **Albert Einstein** "Nothing endures but change." - **Heraclitus** "You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete." - **Buckminster Fuller** "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." - **St. Francis of Assisi**

"If you want to make enemies, try to change something." - **Woodrow Wilson**

## OUR NEW DEMONSTRATION TOOL



To help our Tutors in their teaching we decided to look at improving our ability to illustrate to our students exactly what was going on. We started out looking at improving the projector facilities but, following an idea from Andy Gray, we decided instead to install a large flat screen TV.

Richard Lamb then got into action and organised it all and came up with the idea of putting it onto a trolley so it could be moved between the two teaching rooms.

So it is now all up and running and is working brilliantly and the arrangement has received rave reviews from our students. Richard has commented how it speeds up the teaching scenario.

So we now have a 109 cm (43 inches for those who still haven't gone metric yet - *did you read the above*) Samsung Plasma TV successfully installed and operational.

We trust you will all enjoy the new service and our special thanks to Richard for organising it all.



### Where will Technology take us over the next 30 years

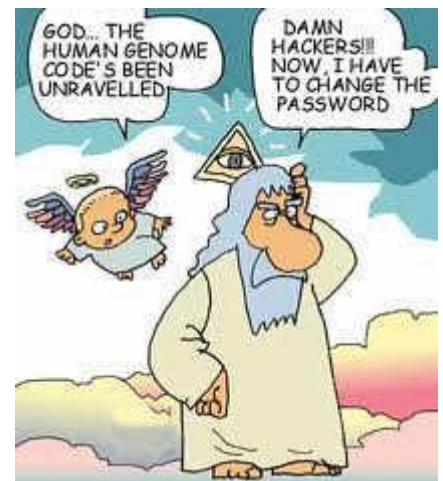
When the Human Genome Project was started in 1990, skeptics said it would take thousands of years for the project to be completed at the speed at which gene scanning took place at the time.

Ten years later, only a small percent of the total genome had been mapped. Yet a few years later it was finished.

What would have taken hundreds of years using late 80's technology ended up taking less than 13 years. But it was even faster than that. One private company started with new technology and finished the entire genome in about two years! Today it would take even less time. The cost of scanning a base pair has dropped from \$10 to only a few cents. Within a decade or less, you will soon be able to get your personal genome scanned for less than \$1000 done in a very short amount of time!

In the next twenty or so years we will see double the technological change that we saw in the entire twentieth century. At that pace, we will see almost four times the rate of change within twenty-five years.

The human brain is a much faster information processor than even the best of today's computers. But the regular doubling of computing power means computers will quickly reach human equivalence. May be by the 2030s. The point is that over the next 20 years things are going to change faster than you now think they will. Much faster.





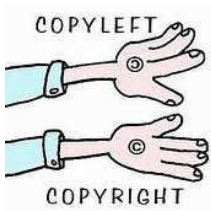
**Look at the photo What do you see?**

I see the special mustard yellow and bright red license plates which must be placed on all cars owned by a person in the US State of Ohio who has been convicted of drunk driving.

Law since 2004 is the requirement that plates be placed on all vehicles owned by the offender during the period of their suspension if the offender is given limited driving privileges. Normal plates are confiscated and destroyed and new red and yellow plates are substituted (at the offenders cost) during the suspension period. Therefore, if you are given limited driving privileges, you are required to use these plates for a minimum period of six months, AND these plates must be used even if other members of your family drive the vehicle. The latest proposal from lawmakers is that they be placed on offenders who have been convicted of drunk driving but have lost their license but once they have served out the loss of license period they be required to have these distinctive plates for say another 2 years.

You think that's too tough and embarrasses innocent family members in the process? Ask anyone who's had a relative or friend killed or injured by a drunk driver and they say, "Why doesn't my state do this?"

The question we may ask is why don't we adopt this measure.



I had to laugh this morning when I read a news story reporting that the EU has agreed to extend the term of copyright protection by a further 20 years (to 70 years - not as bad as the USA but still ....).

Those who own, and think they stand to profit handsomely from continuously extending copyright probably had a party. But the days of copyright to most 12 year olds is long gone.

Copyright was a law that was originally designed to fiscally protect the creators of artistic and creative works for a fixed and finite period of time.

It seems now that legislators are happy to extend that fixed and finite period whenever lobbyists decide.

There's a very good reason that copyright and patent protection is only supposed to offer a fixed, finite term of protection. When that protection expires, it enables others to build on those works, for the betterment of all - for example West Side Story was based on Romeo and Juliet. Current rules would never have allowed that production see the light of day with infinite copyright still being held by the company that would have bought out the Shakespeares.

However, it's all totally academic anyway. Sorry, but the technology cat is out of the bag. When the corporations finally realise that is another matter.



Every PC company fixes things that aren't broken. Any program that runs right is obsolete. Every PC company updates things that work to things that don't. Beta is Latin for "still doesn't work."

Computer and car salesmen differ in that the latter know they are lying.



FROM THIS MONTHS HUTT NEWS .....

The Lower Hutt Police advise -

*" We have noticed more thefts from businesses lately. Often referred to as 'stair dancing' offenders enter premises to steal handbags etc. "*

**These people go up and down stairs looking for offices they can enter and sadly this has recently happened to us at SeniorNet as well as others in our building.**

**Therefore we ask you to all ensure your purses, anything valuable etc are put in a secure place such as under the shelving curtains or at the far end of Room 2. Please also ensure anybody entering the premises is approached promptly to make sure that their entry into our premises is legitimate. In particular these people pretend that they are looking for work.**

**Also please watch your cell phones and laptops. As we say in our waiver please check your insurance cover in relation to your personal items. Please take care! If you have any concerns please speak to your Tutors.**



**Partnering up with SENIORNET to improve the safety of senior road users**

SeniorNet and the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) have partnered up to improve the safety of senior road users. The NZTA has developed some new online resources and felt that SeniorNets' community learning network would be a great way to raise awareness of them.

For many older people driving is a key to their independence, and many of them rely on their cars to get around – for shopping, appointments or visiting friends and family.

While older drivers don't have as many crashes as younger drivers, if they do crash they are more at risk of being seriously injured or killed. This is due to increasing physical fragility.

The NZTA's new education resources for senior road users include the Staying Safe online toolkit at [www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/senior-road-users](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/senior-road-users).

This website section has been designed for older drivers and provides interactive activities and information to help older drivers improve safety for themselves. They're designed to help people maintain their independence while also staying safe on the road.

The information includes:

- an online self assessment quiz that provides some guidance to senior road users to help them self-examine and compare their own ability with the requirements for safe-driving
- brief video clips of how to keep safe in the following driving situations:
  - Safe driving rules
  - Flush medians
  - Roundabouts
  - Traffic lights
  - Motorways
  - Open road driving
- information on how to choose a safe vehicle
- information on safe alternatives to driving including walking and cycling.

The website has simple usability, there are instructions on how to make the font larger online and navigation has been designed to be straightforward.

### Staying Safe Workshops

The NZTA has also launched some Staying Safe workshop materials available to any organisation that wants to provide a refresher road safety workshop for senior road users. I'll be talking to Learning Centres more about this through the year at our Regional Meetings.

The Staying Safe course content and supporting material are designed to help organisations provide classroom-based road safety refresher workshops for senior road users.

More information for organisations interested in running workshops is available at [www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/senior-road-users/staying-safe.html](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/senior-road-users/staying-safe.html).

There is no direct funding from NZTA to run these courses but the resources can be used free of charge if charges for Staying Safe workshops are for your time, the venue, refreshments, photocopying etc, and not for profit.



#### Do you want people over the age of 70 to be mobile for as long as possible?

Are you interested in improving the road safety of senior road users? If you answered yes to these questions, your organisation may be interested in delivering the Staying Safe refresher workshop for senior road users.

Staying Safe is a classroom-based refresher workshop that aims to maintain and improve safe driving practices and increase knowledge of other transport options available to help senior road users remain mobile for as long as possible.

For more about delivering Staying Safe workshops, please see [www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/senior-road-users](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/senior-road-users)



## Why can't they get your pin?

Have you ever wondered why your PIN (personal identification number) is secure when you withdraw money from an ATM machine ? How come neither the bank staff nor the bank manages to know you PIN? Why they do not obtain it when you type it into the ATM and then steal your money?

The reason is that the ATM machine performs the following operation:

When you type in your PIN gets multiplied by a huge (say a 500 digit) usually randomly generated number. The resulting answer (a number 504 digits long) is then checked by the bank. If that number is in the database, you will be allowed to proceed with your transaction.

But crucially the bank cannot figure out your PIN from the 504-digit-long number that they have in their database. It would simply take them a very long time (thousands of years) with current technology!

### TUTOR CO-ORDINATOR REPORT - *Allan Young* - Tutor Co-ordinator

Since our last Newsletter we have undertaken a major restructuring of our courses. We had advice from Dunedin and from Nelson, including a visit from two Nelson Committee members.

We have moved to shorter courses and a monthly schedule rather than a whole "school term" schedule. This provides for greater flexibility for both students and tutors. Students need not commit themselves to eight week courses and in some cases can undertake a two or three week course before deciding whether to take a break and practise what they have learned or proceed to the next stage immediately.

The first monthly programme of courses was in August and the September schedule is well underway. We have to programme two months in advance and are just preparing the November schedule. There will be no classes during the months of December and January.

The new course structure appears to have met with approval from students and we are indebted to tutors for their helpful understanding and co-operation during these early trial months.

Many thanks to the following tutors who have assisted with classes or workshops during August and September. (Apologies to any I may have missed.)

Stuart Bayliss  
Raewyn Davies  
Kingsley Fisher  
Brian Hall  
Richard Lamb  
Reg Mudgway  
Alec Stevenson  
Yvonne Randal  
Peter Anderson

Bill Beard  
Caroline Dunbar  
Ruby Fraser  
Geoff Honey  
Pam McParland  
Maria Newman  
Fay Stewart  
Isobel Low  
Brian Thomas

Nickie Belworthy  
Cathie Ellis  
Andy Gray  
Jexi Keown  
Christine Meredith  
Geoff Sandell  
Geoff Wellberg  
Louisa Coupland  
Christine Vaughan

## STUDENT CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

A recent initiative trialed has been 'Meet and Greet'

This was brought about by the number of new SeniorNet members with their varied abilities, computers and software that were enrolling in the classes. It was felt that if an opportunity for new members to come and familiarise themselves with the venue and tutors prior to their actual classes the class time could be used more effectively.

Two have been run and proved to be a great success. They were able to find out how classes are run (and that it is all by volunteers), that once basic courses have been completed there are a number of other courses on offer which they may find not only of benefit but most enjoyable.

Over a cup of tea/coffee new members have made comment that they have certainly felt most welcome and appreciated the opportunity to come along.

Our next Meet and Greet is set down for 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011.

*Jexi Keown* - Student Coordinator

**AT THE END OF OUR NEWSLETTER WE USUALLY ATTACH AN APPLICATION FORM. BUT YOU CAN'T SEE IT CAN YOU?.**

**SO WHERE IS IT? EXACTLY WHERE YOU WOULD EXPECT IT TO BE UNDER OUR NEW SYSTEM >> ON THE WEBSITE - SO GO TO >> [www.seniornet-huttcity.org.nz](http://www.seniornet-huttcity.org.nz)**

Did you know you can hold down the Ctrl Key and left click the blue link to take you straight there – and why not look at our Blog at [www.seniornet-huttcity.blogspot.com](http://www.seniornet-huttcity.blogspot.com)

**WHY WHY WHY** - *The answer is money!!*

Why does Microsoft need to make office applications confusing, more advanced and more complicated cluttered with toolbars, tabs and now ribbons.

**WORD.** How many of us have gone beyond formatting the text, creating tables, Wordart and header/footer. Very few I guess. Here, I am talking about a normal user, even general office clerks and other computer operators don't use other features added in every new version of office application.

Why don't they offer the user a choice between simple mode and advanced mode. If an office suite had only simple features at a very reasonable price it would help stop the piracy menace.

It is simply a waste of resources with so many untapped / unused features in WORD application. For instance, there is an option to create your own macros via VBA, thats visual basic for application. What are they talking about is the question from 99% of normal people.

But of course they think we are thick and don't understand that they make all these changes for  
\$!!!!!!

## Help with a Survey

A survey organised by AUT on New Zealanders' attitudes to age  
The survey is for 50 year olds and over, and only takes less than 5 minutes to complete online  
at the SeniorNet Federation site [www.seniornet.co.nz](http://www.seniornet.co.nz). Go on have a go.

*While you are there you could click on the link for the latest Federation specials such as discounted magazines –*

## **Special Offers For SeniorNet Federation Members**

Please select a special offer or scroll to view all.

Noel Leeming	Software	Wholesale Toners	InfoCapsule
Returnil	Need A Nerd	Easirest	Adaptive
Travel	Useful DVD	Magazines	NOD32
Computer Hardware	Computer Food	Books Galore	SellBuyNet

## **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 items in this Newsletter taken from the Newsletters of other SeniorNet Branches.*