



NEWSLETTER

Hutt City

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Beautiful cloud formations in the golden light of a setting sun.
Taken from River Road Upper Hutt, looking South



MERRY
Christmas!

End of Year / Christmas Lunch

It's been a year in which we moved to new premises (with a reduction in rent), adopted a new constitution, introduced new courses (AI introduction, Password Manager...) and our membership now at 160. So, 30 of us celebrated the end of this very full year with a shared lunch at the Naenae Bowling club on 12 November. It was a very convivial time, for our members to chat to the committee and tutors and to give us useful feedback and to put faces to names!

and look forward to helping you get familiar with all those new devices you may well acquire over the new year!

Thank you

We close down from the end of November to the end of January 2026, hopefully returning re-vitalised and raring to go on Feb 2026.

Many thanks to all our wonderful volunteers - tutors, committee and support staff and of course our members. We wish you all a relaxing refreshing Christmas holiday

Your Digital Legacy:

What Happens to Your Online Accounts When You're Gone?

I've just been reminded of extra things us seniors should be thinking about. We're getting frequent e-mails from a Facebook account of a past member. Such things can be very annoying and there's often no way to stop them (though we could live with it by setting up a filter in Outlook that would automatically delete such emails).

Sorting out someone's affairs used to mean paperwork, bank accounts, and personal items. Now as well as those, we should also think about our **digital legacy**: the online accounts, photos, and data we'll leave behind.

But remember none of this is much use if you don't have a valid will. So that's the 1st thing to fix!

Why It Matters

We now have lots of things that used to be kept in shoe boxes etc which our executors could easily locate and deal with. But now many of those are online, especially photos, and perhaps family history documents and other important documents which we'd like our families or executors to have. However most online services **don't automatically** give family members access when someone dies.

Privacy laws and security policies can make it tricky to retrieve photos, documents, or emails unless we've planned ahead.

Tools That Help

You can of course give a trusted person your logon ids but you may feel uncomfortable with that (and should certainly think 3 times about doing that for bank accounts). But now many major companies let you plan in advance what you want to happen.

- **Google** – You can set up an Inactive Account Manager to decide who gets access after a defined (3-month?) period of inactivity. See <https://support.google.com/accounts/answer/3036546?hl=en>
- **Apple** – Add a Legacy Contact for iCloud photos, notes, and documents. See <https://support.apple.com/en-nz/102631> If you don't establish a digital legacy plan, your loved ones will likely face significant hurdles. They would need various legal documents, and possibly even court approval, to gain access to your devices and accounts.

- **Facebook** – Choose to *memorialise* your profile or have it deleted. Set up a Legacy contact who could, for example, download all of the photos you'd posted on your Facebook account. See: https://www.facebook.com/help/1568013990080948/?helpref=related_articles
- **Microsoft** doesn't currently offer a legacy contact facility, though your Microsoft account will be deleted after 2 years of inactivity. The only way for someone to be able to preserve your photos and any family history held in the cloud (OneDrive) would be for them to have your logon details.
- **Dropbox** allows you to share your photos or documents in different folders on your device (PC, table, phone) and locate them in the cloud. You can then set up who sees which folders.

Practical Steps

Keep a **secure list** of your key accounts and passwords, stored safely with your will or a trusted family member.

Never share passwords casually, but make sure someone can access what really matters — your photos, messages, or important files.

Our tutors can help you get started with any of the above digital actions.

Next Steps

- **Plan ahead** – Check your account's "Legacy" or "Inactive" settings.
- **Document key accounts** – Keep a list in a secure place.
- **Tell someone you trust** – So they can handle things smoothly later.

A few minutes now can save your family a lot of stress later — and ensure your memories and privacy are protected exactly how you'd want.

Barry (with help from ChatGPT, but I had to check & correct some of what it told me!)

I Told My Phone to Make a Cup of Tea — and It Tried to Set an Alarm!

When smart assistants aren't quite as smart as they think...

Talking to Technology

It all started innocently enough.

I said, "Hey Siri, make me a cup of tea."

Siri paused politely, then replied,

"I can't do that — but I've found several tea shops nearby."

Helpful... in theory.

Voice assistants like Siri, Google Assistant, and Alexa are clever, but sometimes they sound more like well-meaning relatives who didn't quite hear you. Ask Google to "call my daughter," and you might get the local chemist. Tell Alexa to "play soothing music," and suddenly you're rocking out to AC/DC.



What They Actually Do Well

Once you stop laughing, you'll find they're genuinely useful:

-  Remind you to take your medication
-  Tell you tomorrow's weather
-  Call or text family and friends
-  Find your phone (even if it's on silent!)

If you speak clearly and patiently, they do get better at understanding you over time.

Tip Box – Getting the Best Results

- Check "Settings ⇒ Voice Assistant" is turned on
- Say "Hey Siri" or "OK Google" first, then your command
- Keep it simple — one task at a time
- If it mishears you, just say "No, that's not right"

Final Thought

No, your phone can't make the tea (yet), but it can remind you to put the kettle on.

And that's close enough to magic for most of us. 😊



Quick Tips

- Use Your Phone as a Magnifying Glass
- Find Your Phone Even When It's on Silent
- Type Faster with Text Shortcuts

Use your phone as a magnifying glass.

What it does: Turns your camera into a clear, zoomable magnifier without having to download any Apps — great for reading small print on medication bottles, serial numbers, or menus.

- **On both iPhone and Android:** Open the Camera app and zoom in.

Note there are more sophisticated magnification features available but while perhaps having useful extra features, they are more complex to use. So, I reckon KISS.

Find Your Phone Even When It's on Silent

You know the situation, can't remember where you put your phone down so you get someone to ring it, but your phone's on silent so it won't make a noise! So this is what you do then.

iPhone: Use another Apple device or go to [iCloud.com/find](https://www.icloud.com/find) on a PC or tablet or Android phone and choose **Play Sound** — it will ring on your Apple phone even if it's on silent.

If you've not done this before from your PC or device you're using, it will require you to log into the Apple account from your phone.

Note that it will keep on ringing till you find your phone and stop the ringing.

Android: Go to google.com/android/find and click on **Play sound**. *Note: DON'T click on Factory reset device!!*

✔ *Tip:* Try it once now so you know how it works before you need it.

Type Faster with Text Shortcuts

If you find yourself having to type in a funny or long expression often, you can save yourself time by creating a shortcut to use. Save yourself from typing the same phrases or make sure you always get the address right.

- **iPhone: Settings** ⇒ **General** ⇒ **Keyboard** ⇒ **Text Replacement**.
Example: Create a **shortcut** of "adr" and in the **Phrase** enter the address. Then in either a txt or email when you want to enter that address just type 'adr' it will then expand into that full address.
- **Android: Settings** ⇒ **System** ⇒ **General management** ⇒ **Samsung Keyboard settings** ⇒ **Text shortcuts**
Add shortcuts for common replies or contact details.
Example: Create a **shortcut** of 'omw' and in the **Phrase** enter 'On my way'. Then when you text 'omw' it will come up as 'On my way'.

Learn Something New Today

Phone 04 560 3160 or email huttcity@seniornet.nz
to enquire about your next class now!!!



Smartphones



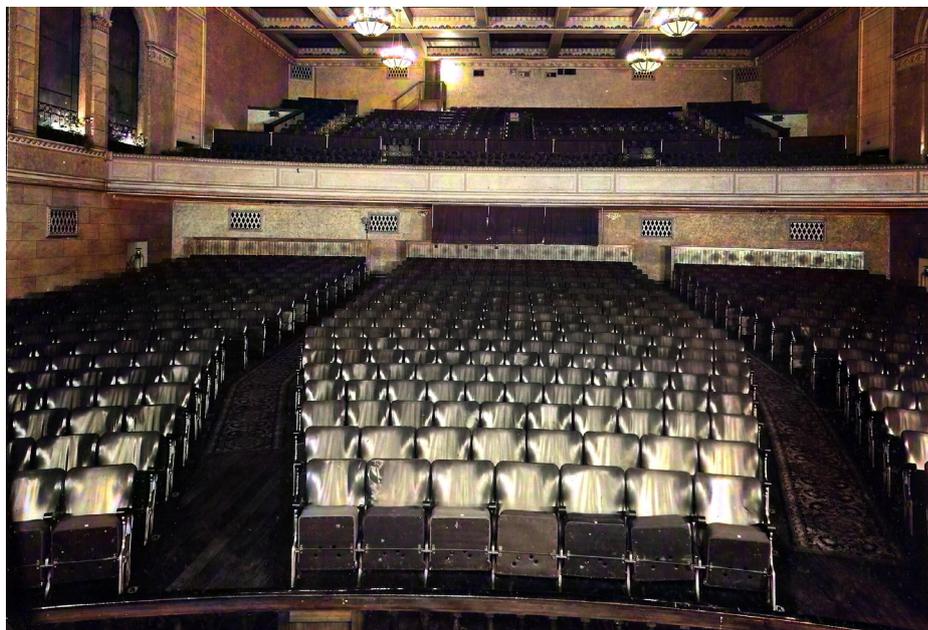
Email



WhatsApp

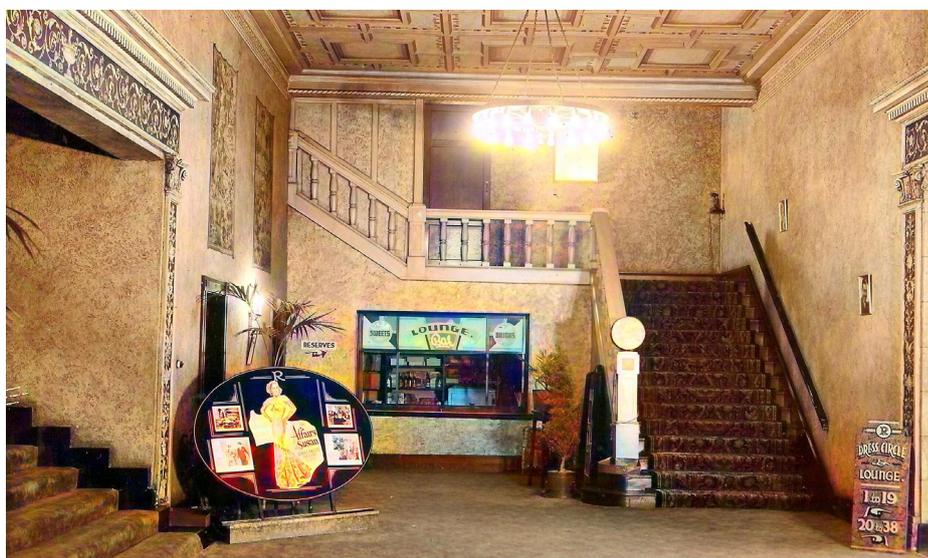
Alan Ladd in the leading role, and *A Town Like Alice* were available for our viewing.

I was not very popular at the end of my final school year, as I was meant to go to my last social. No balls with expensive frocks and hair, makeup, and nails done by professionals — we simply put on our best dresses and sat on one side of the school hall, waiting for a boy to ask us to dance. Very exciting indeed! I had been to enough of them to realise they weren't really to my taste. However, my mother was on the school committee and would be attending, so my fate was sealed — or so I thought.



Regent Theatre Masterton image taken from stage looking back over the stalls and circle

I soon discovered that my father, rather than drive us to the college and then return later to collect us, had decided to go to see *The Magnificent Seven*. That was more like it! With little hope, I asked if I could go with him instead. My mother was horrified. Miss my last school event? What would she say to people? However, much to my surprise, she was told quietly but firmly that I had had a demanding year — passing my driving test and gaining my University Entrance — and as I was old enough to leave school, it was time I started making some of my own choices. So it was that, while she helped make sandwiches and kept an eye on the young folk who did attend, I sat with bated breath while Yul Brynner drove the rig to Boot Hill, with Steve McQueen riding shotgun. They just don't make movies like that anymore.



Front lobby of the Regent Theatre Masterton with stairs up to the Circle and candy bar, 1945

The two picture theatres served us well, with changes in films mid-week and sessions three times a day for the most part: 2:00, 5:00 and 8:00. The ticket prices were flexible too. The cheapest seats, nearest to the screen, were only ninepence, and during the matinees were frequented mostly by older children, who had been dropped off by parents to be collected once the film was over. Without parental supervision, such

viewers could become a little rowdy and often had to be spoken to by the ushers — hence the expression "*Quiet in the ninepennies!*" It became part of Masterton's collection of expressions and is still used today by those of us old enough to remember the delights of the Silver Screen.



Glenda

Just For Laughs



Sudoku

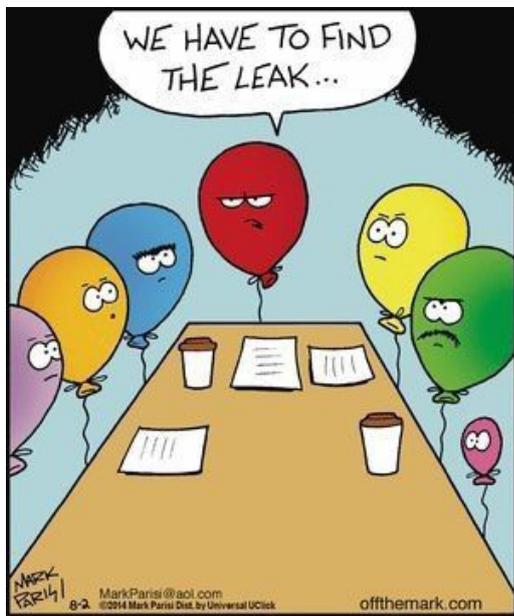
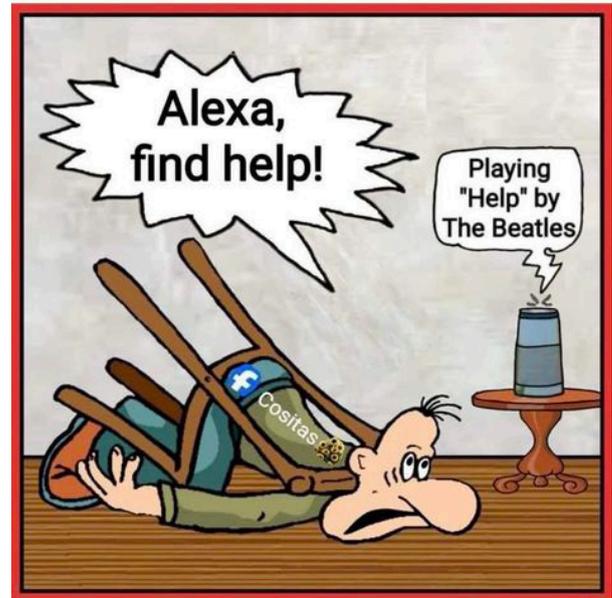
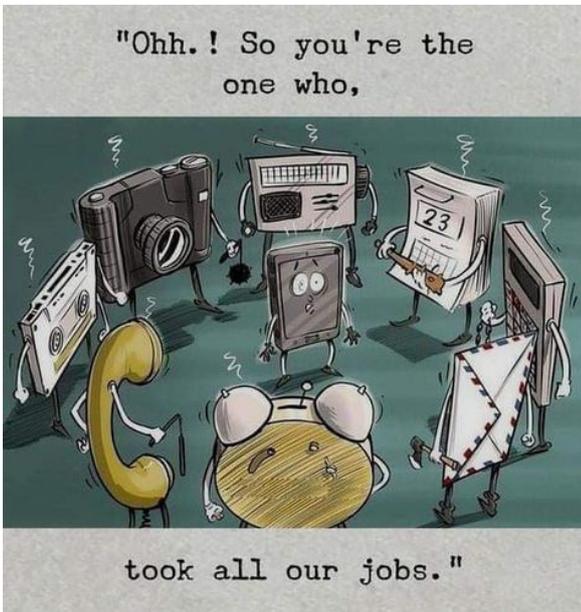
Solutions: See page 8

Difficulty: Hard

4	7	1		5	9	2	8
2			1			5	
	8		3				4
							7
					8		
3		2					9 6
	4			1			8
8		3			4		1
		5				7	

Difficulty: Medium

						8		
	9	5			2		1	6
	4			6		2	7	
				5		7		
2	1	7	8				9	
					7	3		1
5	2	4	3	9				
	7		1	4				2
						9		



Sudoku Solution

Solutions for the puzzles on page 7

4	7	1	6	5	9	2	3	8
2	3	6	1	4	8	5	7	9
5	8	9	3	2	7	6	1	4
9	5	8	4	3	6	1	2	7
7	6	4	2	9	1	8	5	3
3	1	2	7	8	5	4	9	6
6	4	7	9	1	2	3	8	5
8	2	3	5	7	4	9	6	1
1	9	5	8	6	3	7	4	2

7	6	2	4	1	9	8	5	3
3	9	5	7	8	2	4	1	6
1	4	8	5	6	3	2	7	9
4	3	9	6	5	1	7	2	8
2	1	7	8	3	4	6	9	5
8	5	6	9	2	7	3	4	1
5	2	4	3	9	8	1	6	7
9	7	3	1	4	6	5	8	2
6	8	1	2	7	5	9	3	4

SeniorNet Hutt City Info:

Subscriptions

People have been asking about renewing their subscriptions - your current membership subscription ends on March 31st unless you joined after November 1st, in which case it stays current till the following year. Accounts and reminders are sent in due course.

Has your email address changed?

To ensure you get your emails from SeniorNet Hutt City, please make sure we have your correct email address. Send an email from anywhere to this address:

huttcity@seniornet.nz .

Use the same address if you are going away and want to be temporarily removed from the mailing list.

Don't forget to email again to tell us to resume on your return. Your records will be updated

Receiving newsletters

Weekly emails and the quarterly newsletter are only sent to email

addresses. If you have not been receiving regular email from SeniorNet or have changed your email address recently, please advise us of your correct email address. You can send an email from anywhere to:

huttcity@seniornet.nz

Enrolling on a course

Read the Student Schedules carefully and contact the tutor whose name and phone number will be included in this. In SeniorNet Hutt City the secretary is the usual person to send out the emails to the entire membership of about 260 but she is not the person who will be running the course so it is best to phone the tutor direct and then you are also able to hear of any special requirements or can ask any relevant questions.

Disclaimer

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 recipients' 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, newsletters or programs provided. All SeniorNet Hutt City produced Courses are copyright to it, not to the individual authors, or to the copyright holder as noted.

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 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.

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Hutt City

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