

TAURANGA SENIORNET

MEMBER OF THE NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF SENIORS CLUBS INC.

Newsletter November 2009

Compiled by Ken White

Buying a computer is not an every day affair, so my recent upgrade to a brand new 'Windows 7' model was a time to reflect and compare.

My very first PC bought in 1992 was a very different animal, you might be interested in a few comparisons:

- **Screen;** Then a tiny but clunky 14" CRT, at least it had colour, a new innovation then – now a 20" wide-screen LCD.
- **Hard Drive;** This was 40 Megabytes (40 Million bytes) then – now we have one Terabyte (1 Trillion (1 followed by 12 zeros) bytes)
- **Other Drives:** Either a 5¼" or a 3½" floppy drive. Floppies had capacities of between 360 and 1,440 Kilobytes. It took 12 floppies to install an early version of Word! Now we have CD &/or DVD drives plus USB Flash Drives of 32 Gigabytes and more.
- **Printer:** Nine-pin dot matrix, using a black typewriter-type ribbon – now a full colour inkjet that also scans, faxes and photocopies.
- **Memory;** A lonely one Megabyte, now multiply that by 4,000 to give 4 Gigabytes
- **Modem;** Sorry, not in 1992, (hardly anyone had email then) but now we have Broadband.
- **Speakers;** Well there was something called 'Computer sound', a few beeps and squeaks, but nothing like our stereo speakers we can listen to our favourite music on.
- **Clock Speed;** Operating on 'turbo', 33 megahertz, you can multiply that by one hundred today.
- **OS;** I don't want to even talk about Dos (Disk Operating System,) you wouldn't want to know!

So there it is, sitting on my desk waiting for me to press a few keys. A magnificent beast, thousands of times more powerful than its predecessors and about half the price. I can't wait to try it.

The thing is though, for all its power and sophistication, bells and whistles, it doesn't

Ron Kendrick 1927 – 2009

SeniorNet Members will be sad to hear that Ron passed away on the morning of Monday 2nd November.

Ron, with his late wife Muriel, was the face of SeniorNet Tauranga, from its earliest days. He was known to hundreds as a gentle, jovial and patient coach who would go out of his way to help anyone. He served the club in every way, Coach, Mechanic and President. Our condolences to his daughter Charmaine and family.

seem to do appreciably more or perform faster than it's prehistoric ancestor. Funny that!

If you are upgrading to Windows 7 from a previous version you will notice a few changes, some of which might surprise you. If you are into Windows games, you won't find them just waiting for you as before. Go to Start/Control Panel/Programs & Features /Turn Windows features on or off. If you tick the plus sign against 'Games' you can select those you wish to be available.

The other is the absence of Outlook Express and/or Windows Mail. Microsoft suggest you use web mail - 'cloud computing' - the 'way of the future maybe'? Or you could just use the free download 'Thunderbird'. Go to www.mozilla.com and click on the icon to download Thunderbird. Maybe you should all have listened to me last year when I recommended **Gmail** as an email address!

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Next to Historic Village

Email;

seniornet_tga@xtra.co.nz

Web-site;

www.taurangaseniorsnet.co.nz

Committee;

Chairperson - Brian McWilliam

Secretary - Jean Holmes

Treasurer - Mike Molen

From the Chair

Hi Folks,

Gwen Harvey vacated the Chair of our club last month, to be with her family in New Plymouth. Your Management Committee voted for me to be the stand-in Chairman, to carry us through to the next Annual General Meeting. The proper election of officers will then be held.

The main matters of concern for the club currently are the overall fall-off in numbers for:-

- a. New students enrolling for Introductory Courses, and;
- b. Students moving on the Word Processing Courses, and;
- c. Members offering to take on the roles of positions on the Management Committee..

We are reviewing the format of courses for next year as well as working on defining the roles of the various members of the committee.

I would prefer a system, particularly relevant in a Volunteer Organisation, where administrative positions are set up so that they can be easily rolled-over. Then the occupants of those positions get regular relief and are not cemented-in there - until they depart this mortal-coil, burn-out, or even worse!

To that end, we seriously need help from you, to find people who will volunteer their services and skills for duties as:

- Secretary of the Club.
- Registrar of Enrolments
- Federation Co-ordinator.

I hope you can see your way clear to help out (further than you already do probably) with the running of our club.

Cheers,

Brian McWilliam, Chairman.

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Some light relief!

COACHES MEETING

FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

AT 10.00 AM

THE LEARNING CENTRE.

PRESIDENT BRIAN HAS REQUESTED THAT AS MANY COACHES AS POSSIBLE ATTEND TO DISCUSS SOME IMPORTANT CHANGES

Drawing on my fine command of the English language, I said nothing.

Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.

Dyslexics of the world - **untie!**

Either I've been missing something, or nothing has been going on.

Energizer Bunny arrested - charged with battery.

Ever stop to think - and forget to start again?

Every morning is the dawn of a new error...

Everyone has a photographic memory. Some folks don't have film.

Everyone is a damn fool for at least 5 minutes a day; wisdom consists of not exceeding the limit.

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NEXT CLUB DAY

WILL BE ON FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

AT 1.30PM

THE LEARNING CENTRE.

SPEAKER - **CHARMAINE KENDRICK**



PHOTO ALBUMS THE WAY THEY SHOULD BE

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

Charmaine Kendrick, daughter of well-known Club member Ron, recently made a nostalgic trip around the South Island. Wanting to present the photos taken in a better way, she discovered 'Snapfish', an online provider of various products. They also have free easy-to-use software which will enable you to compile beautiful albums, cards and other products personalised with your own photos.

You could learn all about it by visiting the site below;

<http://www.snapfish.co.nz/howitworks/>

Better still, come along to Club day on Friday, 13th November. Charmaine will be there with her album and will give a simple demonstration of the program. She has suggested that members bring along a series of their own photos, preferably on a memory stick, and she will show various examples of what can be achieved by using this freely downloadable software.

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“I Just Want To Send Emails”

How often has this been said by people commencing an introductory class. These people have usually been given a second hand computer by friends or family, or it has been said that you should have a computer to be able to keep in touch by sending or receiving emails. These students invariably have little knowledge of computers or realise their capabilities.

They reach a stage of only being able to send or receive emails they then find down track that they want to do more, such as saving and printing out photos or other files that have been sent to them. Or, they want to send data or photos from their digital cameras to friends. Some manage this after a fashion and wonder why their photos take so long to send.

Over the last twelvemonths or so, there has been a marked decline in the number of students enrolling only for the introductory courses and not seeking to gain further knowledge by undertaking the more advanced courses. Many labour under the misapprehension that these courses are mainly directed toward typing long letters or writing reports, whereas we should be emphasising that they are probably the most important ones for developing computer skills. It is there that students learn to use the features in the various menus and gain an understanding of their computer.

Our coaches should be encouraging students to look beyond the introductory or email stage and guide them towards other programmes that computers can be used for. It is only by arousing the students interest that will see the potential for undertaking further courses and have the desire to develop their computer skills.

Mike Molen, Treasurer.

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Puzzle-me this.

It is reported that in one group of 240 people, only 6 solved this puzzle. Consider **every** fact and come up with the solution

On a train, Smith, Robinson and Jones are the fireman, guard, and driver, but NOT respectively. Also aboard the train are three

businessmen who have the same names: a Mr. Smith, a Mr. Robinson, and a Mr. Jones. Using the clues below, identify the **driver**.

1. Mr. Robinson lives in Auckland.
2. The guard lives exactly halfway between Wellington & Auckland.
3. Mr. Jones earns exactly \$20,000 per year.
4. The guard's nearest neighbour, one of the passengers, earns exactly three times as much as the brakeman.
5. Smith beats the fireman at billiards.
6. The passenger, whose name is the same as the guard's, lives in Wellington.

The answer will be found on the SeniorNet web site this first week of November.

Federation of SeniorNet Clubs www.seniornet.co.nz

Check out the above web site for their 'Special Offers' – software at heavily discounted prices, learning aids for seniors and useful and interesting articles.

You can also see the results of a survey of SeniorNet students. Some of the conclusions can be seen below;

“SeniorNet is a highly valued service. Older people’s learning needs are recognised and incorporated within the SeniorNet service. This is what makes SeniorNet unique and why older people specifically join SeniorNet to learn about new technology. Unlike other providers, SeniorNet focuses on the older individual and provides a supportive learning environment that encourages, rather than makes older people feel inept because they have different learning requirements than younger learners.

SeniorNet is also recognised for its quality learning environment. SeniorNet provides older people from diverse age groups, experiences and interests with high-quality teaching and courses that contain relevant subject matter. Members are highly satisfied with the learning they receive.

And Lastly

Generally, Coaches would prefer that students use the Club’s own computers for their lessons. That is what they have been set up for. SeniorNet has permitted the use of laptop computers and will continue this policy. What is not acceptable is the use of so-called ‘netbooks’, their small screens are totally unsuitable for the work we do. As a general rule, laptops should have a minimum screen size of 15.6”.

TAURANGA SENIORNET CLUB INC

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

**Our subscriptions are now due for the year 1st January 2010 to the
31st December 2010**

Subscription is \$45.00 for 1 member and \$75 for a couple

Subscriptions can be made at any time and forwarded to

**The Secretary
PO Box 15382
TAURANGA.**

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Name.....

Address.....

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Phone No:.....

E-Mail:.....

Please find enclosed my/our cheque/cash for our subscription

\$.....