

TAURANGA SENIORNET

MEMBER OF THE NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF SENIORNET CLUBS INC.

Newsletter March 2009

Compiled by Ken White

A new year, new term, new SeniorNet structures, new courses and most of all, a new set of faces at the Learning Centre. In the previous Newsletter, Gwen spelt out some of the detail of the structures which are now operating successfully.

In this issue Chairperson Gwen talks to us about the Club and there is news of the many Special Offers available to Members through the Federation. Our guru John Whalley tells us a little about the SeniorNet web site he presents to us so well. It truly is a great resource for all of us, full of computing tips, free programs and information about the club. 'Get Together with Google' continues with Part Two

Don't forget the upcoming AGM - this is your opportunity to contribute to the running of *your* club

Ken White - bevnken@gmail.com



The Tauranga SeniorNet Club Inc;

Office & Clubrooms; 17th Avenue

Next to Historic Village

Email;

seniornet_tga@extra.co.nz

Web-site;

www.taurangasenior.net.co.nz

Committee;

Chairperson - Gwen Harvey

Secretary - Jean Holmes

Treasurer - Mike Molen

From the Chair

Happy New Year - and welcome back to another year of SeniorNet activities for 2009.

As promised at the end of 2008, the new - look course arrangement is now in operation and appears to be working well to date. A rounded assessment will not be possible until the end of the second term as it will take at least the Introductory and Word Processing courses to be completed by students to judge the success of the arrangements. One aspect that has been apparent already is the satisfaction with the choice of *Off-the-base-line courses* offering interesting variety for our students.

It seems almost criminal to start talking of the Annual General Meeting for 2009! It has to be done!

This will take place at the Learning Centre on Friday 13th March 2009 at 1.30pm. There will be no session with

John Whalley that day but our speaker for the occasion will be Grant Sidaway of the NZ Federation of SeniorNets. Grant is always good value as a speaker and has many computer related topics he speaks about. It will also be an opportunity to ask questions of him about the Federation. He shared the speakers rostrum at our last 2008 Club Day but there was no time for questions as he was driving on to his next engagement straight after the meeting.

The main business of the AGM will be the election of officers and committee for the ensuing year. Nomination forms are available from the Secretary.

The Tauranga SeniorNet Club Inc. has been directed by many able members just like yourselves who have given their time in building a Club with first class functioning of teaching and learning and a reputation nationally that reflects that.

Take the plunge and take a more in-depth part in having a say about how we run as a computer club.

I am sure that your grandparents and parents always emphasised that you not only 'take' from society but you also have to 'give back' to society. Get those talents out, dust them off and start 'giving back' to the club that has given you so much pleasure already.

I can supply further information if you would like to give me a call on 574 5807.

Gwen Harvey – Chairperson

Remember you're unique - just like everybody else.

Borrow from pessimists - they don't expect it back.

Change is inevitable - except from vending machines.

Don't use a big word where a diminutive one will suffice.

Don't worry about the world ending today - It's already tomorrow in New Zealand (unless you're in New Zealand - then start worrying)

Federation of SeniorNet Clubs

As a student member of SeniorNet you might well be asking "What does the Federation do for us?".



Last year, hundreds of SeniorNet members bought Office 2007 Home and Student edition through the special discount purchasing scheme at www.seniornet.co.nz

The price fluctuated as Microsoft altered their pricing structures together with the Federation's ability to secure short term pricing specials. The normal recommended retail price is \$269.00. Currently Microsoft have a promotion running, plus the Federation is able to get an additional discount from the distributor so;

The price for SeniorNet Members until 12 March 2009 will be **\$132.00** including GST and delivery.



Special pricing arrangements are in place for members to connect to Telstra Clear, both phone and internet!! These deals change regularly and are listed on www.seniornet.co.nz under the "Special Offers" tab.

Last year the Federation received about \$25,000 by way of funding from the 3% SeniorNet/TelstraClear customer rebate system.

The Federation recommends a program called Advanced System Care as a one-click computer repair system. This is a free, 7.5MB download from www.iobit.com. Maybe John will give it a test run!

Important Reminder

Annual Subscriptions are now due for the year January 2009 to December 2009. Unless your subscription is paid, you will be unable to vote at the upcoming Annual General Meeting. Will you please send in your subscription or notify the secretary if you wish to resign.

Jean Holmes - Secretary

SeniorNet information at your fingertips 24/7

Our website can bring up to date information to your screen at any time of day or night.

Discover how the new arrangement of courses operates.

Find out about club events like the Camera Interest Group, Club Days and Question & Answer sessions. Learn about the free software that you can download and use to do interesting new things on your computer. There are programs for security, drawing, enhancing photos, writing documents and managing files – all listed with descriptions for you to see.



There are links to the SeniorNet Federation and to other SeniorNet Clubs around New Zealand.

Tell your friends about the website too. It's a good place for them to find out about us if they are interested in learning how to get the most out of their computer.

If you're reading this in on screen, click the address below to visit the website right now.



Otherwise, start up your computer, open *Internet Explorer*, type the address into the address slot and press the *Enter* key.

www.taurangasenior.net.co.nz



Get Together with Google

Last newsletter we covered the free Google email product 'Gmail'. The article was expanded somewhat and John Whalley has taken the trouble to include it as a 74KB download from the SeniorNet web site.

Today we will explore some more of the free offerings from Google. Start by opening any of the google sites, say www.google.com. As with all the google products, you need to register to take full advantage of them so why not open a Gmail address if you haven't already done so.



Home Page

As a registered user you will have your own 'home page' which you can customise to suit your tastes. There is a tremendous selection of features to chose from;

- Your personalised weather.
- An analogue clock with date.
- 'Word of the day' feature with link to a dictionary and thesaurus.
- Your choice of news stories, e.g. local business or sports news.
- Many, many other options.

Google Calendar

At the top left of the page you will find a series of menu items, the most interesting of which is '**more**' where you will find Calendar about the middle of the menu. When you select this you will find your calendar with view options – e.g. week, month etc – for you to choose from. Here you can enter events, the 'all day' kind like anniversaries and birthdays or the time-specific like dental appointments.

To create an event, click on the day and give it a name, for example 'my birthday'. When you select 'edit' you have the chance to make it a recurring event. There are many options, weekly, annually, every weekday etc. You can also set the number of repeats and as well set a location.

You can also ask to be reminded, by pop-up (never very good unless you are permanently in front of your computer), by email or even by text message. For the latter you must register your cell phone number but the procedure is painless and what's more, the system works and is remarkably free!

Google Documents

I suggested to you in Part One, that you could dispense with almost all the programs on your computer by using Google. Use Google Documents and you could do just that, although you would have to manage without many of the 'bells and whistles' that make Microsoft 'Word' so comprehensive a word processor. Still, it is easy to use and, although you are limited to a dozen 'web-safe' fonts, it is still possible to construct an attractive document

Spreadsheet

If you need to do financial or numeric computation then Google Spreadsheets will do the job. You can keep track of your investments or your Bank balance and all the facilities for calculation are available. Just like the word processor above, there is provided a 'Video Introduction' to start you off. There are even multiple sheets in the workbook.

Presentation

If you have used Microsoft's Power Point you will have some idea what this package will do. I have not tested it but there is no reason to suppose it will not do the job.

But Wait – There's More

To see the real Treasure Trove on offer go to 'More/Even More'. Some of these will be known to you.

- Google Earth is a downloadable program where you can locate the satellite view of virtually any location on the planet while you are connected to the internet,. While viewing the location, a click on the map button will overlay a street map over the picture. Many places now also have a 'street view', by clicking on the camera icon you can see a 360° panorama. There is a street view of 17th Avenue opposite the Learning Centre. Unless you have a broadband connection you will find Google Earth too slow in practise.
- Picasa is a basic image editing and photo management program. It has some very good features and for many of us it will do everything we need to touch up photos and to help us keep track.
- Translate is a really neat feature. You can paste into it a foreign language document for an instant translation to English or any other language. You can write a letter to a pen friend and have it translate to his language.

Some of the available programs and features will be of little interest to you, but you should check them out. You may be pleasantly surprised.

Happy Computing,

Ken

SENIORNET ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ELECTION OF OFFICERS, FINANCIAL REPORTS
GENERAL BUSINESS

SPEAKER; GRANT SIDAWAY OF NZ FEDERATION OF SENIORNET SOCIETIES
HELD AT: **WHEN:**
THE LEARNING CENTRE **FRIDAY 13 MARCH, 2009**
17TH AVENUE **1.30 PM**
TAURANGA