

TAURANGA SENIORNET

MEMBER OF THE NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF SENIORNET CLUBS INC.

Newsletter August 2009

Compiled by Ken White

The first of my annual visits to Queensland was twenty years ago. Communication with home was by mail plus the periodic use of a call box needing a pocketful of gold coin. No cell phone, no internet, no phone in the apartment. It really was a dinosaur age as far as communications was concerned

Nowadays the cell phone trills frequently with the grandchildren's texts, cheap call plans coax the family to call our land line and the free internet access at the local library completes our connection with home. The postman hardly ever calls.

Apart from email, the internet allows me to check my bank balance and make transfers and payments. We are warned of the risk of using internet cafés for sensitive transactions but I think the library is relatively safe. As a precaution though I use the web browser on my Memory Stick which is itself protected with a virus check and password.

I also carry on it all the programs I may need, a full Office Suite, a protected file containing all my user names and passwords, and other files I may require while I am away like address and phone lists, bills to pay etc. The Boy Scouts had it right when they told us to 'be prepared'.

The change of email address to Gmail some years ago has been invaluable. Every email ever received during that time is stored there and can be easily searched and my full 'List of Contacts' is available each time I go on line.

All of these mean that now I can compile your quarterly newsletter as easily here in Australia (almost!) as I could from my home in the Mount. There is a difference though – here the temperature is today 25 degrees and this afternoon I will be bowling in shorts and shirtsleeves!

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The Tauranga SeniorNet Club Inc;

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Next to Historic Village

Email;

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Web-site;

www.taurangaseniornet.co.nz

Committee;

Chairperson - Gwen Harvey

Secretary - Jean Holmes

Treasurer - Mike Molen

Stop Press

Our popular Chair person, Gwen Harvey, will soon be moving from Tauranga to be closer to her family. Pending the next AGM, and subject to approval by the Committee, Brian McWilliam will take the position. We all wish Gwen the very best in her new location.

From the Chair

We are now into the third week of the third term of 2009 and have passed the halfway date of the year. Horrors! It seemed only yesterday that the academic year started.

Our financial members number 268 after a big effort to clear out those non financial members still on our books. Keeping the numbers correct causes much work for the Secretary and her assistant and in spite of the subscription reminders that start to go out before the end of the current academic year we seem to be consistently still reminding people that they are not financial members when they are wishing to enrol to do another course of study the following year.

I have already commented in newsletters past that our students now seem to be more oriented to getting the very basics of computer operation from us without the follow through to more advanced computer skills. While we have to go along with the demand, more advanced skills give the student unlimited variety to the area of computing they

are interested in. Don't write off the courses of Word Processing as un-needed. You may not want to be involved in Office Employment or write your memoirs but the skills taught in Word Processing are skills also needed for graphics programmes, slide-shows, computer budgeting and so on, in fact every other programme of interest to any of us.

Learning these common skills allows you to work any computer programme by yourself. Very shortly the new Microsoft Windows 7 operating system will be available on the market and anyone buying a new computer should seriously be thinking of having 7 installed on the new computer. The Learning Centre will still be teaching with XP and Vista but as we get more newcomers with 7 we will also be teaching that system as well.

This situation also presents another challenge to our coaches and huge work for our manual writer, John Whalley. You can see that life is never dull at the Centre!

- *Be careful.*
- *Keep warm.*
- *Stay out of the rain and avoid the flu.*
- *Come out to play again when Spring is here.*

Good wishes for a continuing healthy winter
Gwen Harvey, Chairperson

Manage your Money

Tools for Budgeting

- **A Workshop will be held on Thursday 24th September from 1.30 until 4.00 pm.**
- **Free Cashbook Management Software**
- **Free Calendar, Spreadsheet, Office Suite**
- **Learn to use these Free Tools**
- **Ring Jean Holmes at the Learning Centre 577-1912**
- **Limited Places Available**



These are genuine clips from English enjoy how others put their thoughts into words.

- It's the dog's mess that I find hard to swallow.
- I wish to report that tiles are missing from the outside toilet roof I think it was bad wind the other night that blew them off.
- My lavatory seat is cracked, where do I stand?

- I am writing on behalf of my sink, which is coming away from the wall.
- Will you please send someone to mend the garden path? My wife tripped and fell on it, yesterday, and now she is pregnant.
- I request permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen.
- 50% of the walls are damp, 50% have crumbling plaster and 50% are plain filthy.
- The toilet is blocked and we cannot bath the children until it is cleared.
- Will you please send a man to look at my water; it is a funny colour and not fit to drink.
- Our lavatory seat is broken in half and is now in three pieces.
- Our kitchen floor is damp. We have two children and would like a third, so please send someone round to do something about it.
- This is to let you know that our lavatory seat is broke and we can't get BBC2

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Support Your Club Web Site
www.taurangasenior.net.co.nz

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Marketing & Advertising Intruders:

Do you receive unwanted advertising and marketing calls to your telephone (particularly at dinner time) and by e-mail messaging? If you want your name removed from those schedules, go to the web site listed below;

www.marketing.org.nz

Enter your details into the appropriate request form and submit and you should be able to enjoy dinner in peace.

The web site is self explanatory and easy to follow.

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Next Club Day

Will be on Friday 28th August

At 1.30pm

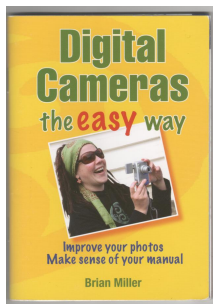
The Learning Centre.

**Speaker will be from
HARVEY NORMAN**

**Will speak about Lap tops, Wi-fi
And other topics of interest**

All members are Welcome

Digital Photography



We have sold our entire supply of the booklet "Digital Cameras the easy way", but have obtained a further stock from Brian Miller, still at the discount price to members of \$12.00 each. Any member wishing to obtain a copy should contact our Secretary Jean Holmes, 577-1912 or Mike Molen 574-2727.

Interest in the course remains high with sufficient numbers to run a class next term. With the demise of film cameras, and film becoming harder to obtain, digital cameras will soon become the only option for both the serious and the not-so-serious photographer. The rapid development of digital camera photography has reached the stage now that there is nothing that a film camera can do that a digital camera cannot do better.

Digital Camera Discussion Group.

In the absence of Frances Bennett, the group is being chaired by Athol Lawrence. This is an informal group that discusses all aspects of digital cameras and photography. You do not have to be an expert to come along and be involved. Any novice can learn from talking to other members. Athol, while disclaiming to be an expert, is knowledgeable about many aspects of cameras, their lenses and other features. If you would like helpful advice on your digital camera, come along to these sessions. There you will benefit from the experience of other members.

We all had to learn the basics so you will be no different from the other participants.

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Bill Gates reportedly stated, "If GM had kept up with the technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars with 1,000 miles to the gallon." In response, General Motors issued a press release stating, "If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics:

- For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash twice a day.
- Every time they painted new lines on the road, you would have to buy a new car.
- Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull over to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. You would simply accept this.
- Occasionally, executing a manoeuvre such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.

- Only one person at a time could use the car unless you bought "CarNT," but then you would have to buy more seats.
- Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive, but it would only run on 5% of the roads.
- The oil and water temperature warning lights would all be replaced by a single "general protection fault" warning light.
- The airbag system would ask, "Are you sure?" before deploying.
- Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the antenna.
- GM would require all car buyers to also purchase a deluxe set of road maps, even though they neither need nor want them. Attempting to delete this option would immediately cause the car's performance to diminish by 50% or more. Moreover, GM would become a target for investigation by the Justice Department.
- Every time GM introduced a new car, you would have to learn to drive all over again. None of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
- You'd have to press the "start" button to turn the engine off.

Should I Left Click or Right Click?

This question is often asked by members, but the matter is easily decided if you remember the following principle:

Left Click Tells - Right Click Asks.

A **left click** gives an order, or issues an instruction, or causes an action. For example, by left clicking on a button or a menu item, activation of that process occurs (print, or save, or copy, or undo, or whatever). Left clicking on a programme name causes it to open. Left click on an item selects it.

Right clicking on any item or area of the screen asks "What can I do here?", or "What options are available to me here?". The answer is given to you in a pop-up menu (and you can then left click to choose an action from that menu. Or, you can left click on a blank area of the screen to make the menu go away again). We generally call this a context menu, because each pop-up menu tailors the options to that particular object your mouse is pointing to.

Try it! Right click on everything in sight! (The start button, desktop icons, menu bar, toolbar, blank area of the screen, etc.) You will never run into trouble by right clicking anything, as you are only asking what you can do.

But, do be clear about what you are doing before you left click on a menu, and cause an action.