

TAURANGA SENIORNET

MEMBER OF THE NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF SENIORNET CLUBS INC.

Newsletter May, 2010

Compiled by Ken White

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The Internet is a very recent phenomenon, and we Seniors are probably slower than most to embrace the changes that follow from it. We have though found out about email, apart from texting it is one way, perhaps the only way, we can keep up with our children and grandchildren.

Some of us have found Skype, incredibly a free program and service whereby we can see and talk to people all round the globe. I am able to watch the progress of my grandchildren in different parts of Australia and talk to my brother and nephews in the UK. Best of all, I can see on a daily basis the changes in the life of my only great-grandie, as she approaches nine months. All for the cost of a \$60 web cam and a free download from www.skype.com. It does help to have broadband, though dial-up will work sometimes, albeit rather jerkily.

Communication then seems to be central to our use of the internet, and this is so for youth too. 'Facebook', originally limited to the students of Harvard, now has over 400 million users worldwide. If you really want to know how your offspring live, become their 'Facebook friend'!

I think we all know at least something about the ability to 'search'. Using 'Google' or 'Bing' or one of the other search engines we can check out the health of Russell Watson or seek the meaning of a 'Windows' Error Message, eg. 'Out of memory'! Wikipedia is a great place to find the response to a persistent child's questions - "what's a lemur, gran, where do they live?" The answers are all to be found there.

If you have not done so already, you should be compiling a list of useful (to you) web sites by recording them as a 'favourite' or as a 'bookmark'. Suggestions are your Bank, for internet banking, try www.consumer.org.nz for tips on quality and price. Check that the Emergency Services will be able to find you, put your address into www.myaddress.co.nz – you might be surprised.

Happy Surfing

The Tauranga SeniorNet Club Inc;
Office & Clubrooms; 17th Avenue
Next to Historic Village

Email;

seniornetga@extra.co.nz

Web-site;

www.taurangasenior.net.co.nz

Committee;

Chairperson - Brian McWilliam

Secretary - Lillian George

Treasurer - Mike Molen

From the Chair

Hi Folks. Our classes have settled in for the second term but as I have said previously we do need more of our members to offer themselves as Assistant Coaches and give some relief to those Coaches who are standing in for multiple classes because we have the need for their services. Please make yourself known to Isabel Weenink or Val Fleet if you think you can help out

We were recently pleasantly surprised when 27 year old Mark Warren, a new arrival from South Africa, turned up on our door-step and offered to help with our coaching classes. Mark is a computer enthusiast who has an extensive knowledge of all aspects of computers. We are using him for classes involving both Introductory and Computer Skills, both in Word 2007 and the Open Office programmes. We thank him for his kind gesture and wish him well for the future.

Lillian George is easing herself into the Secretary's duties, and will eventually take over from Jean in September when she retires from her present full time employment and hopefully can commit a little more time to our organisation. Lillian has previously been a sole charge Office Manager and brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience. To co-inside with her arrival we have purchased a new Windows 7 computer for the office and this will be set up with information from the old computer (which not as efficient as it might be) over the next few weeks


Hope to see you at Club Day on Friday the 4th June.

Cheers,

Brian

“Friendly and simple technology help at your home.”

0800 NeedANerd (0800 63 33 26)
www.needanerd.co.nz
service@needanerd.co.nz



Paul Logan from ‘Need a Nerd’ recently met the committee to outline the service they provide to computer users. Some of the points made were;

- They have three staff in our region. Paul is the ‘Chief Nerd’ and trains his staff.
- Laptop repairs: Yes, where increased RAM or electrical faults in hard drives are concerned.
- Outside warranty issues are presently being discussed by them with DELL.
- They are concerned with value to the customer They make ‘on site’ visits and estimate whether a repair is worthwhile.
- Professional liability insurance to meet claims made against the firm – Yes they do (1.5 million cover).
- ‘Need a Nerd’ is a national firm but each area is run locally.
- They have an 0800 number which is manned between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to talk through customer problems.
- Hourly rates: \$89.00 an hour to SeniorNet members (normally \$99/hr). A minimum of 15 minutes charge out rate. Usually takes at least 30 minutes per visit.
- Travel charge only exists beyond Omokoroa and Te Puke.
- Payment on site of repair. They have EFTPOS and Internet banking is O.K.
- A detailed invoice is available.
- Their office is in the Nissan/Subaru office in Hewletts Road.
- SeniorNet members need to point out when calling out ‘Need a Nerd’ that they are in fact SeniorNet members, otherwise charge out will be at the higher rate.
- Technical content is available.
- ‘Need a Nerd’ is allied with Dick Smith

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The Tauranga SeniorNet Club Inc; **Club Day**

At the Learning Centre, 17th Avenue
Next to Historic Village
1.30 pm. - Friday 4th June

Speakers;

Paul Logan of ‘Need a Nerd’
Isabel Weenink – “Travels in Egypt.”
Gold Coin Donation – Refreshments Included
All Members are Welcome

Google’s May Makeover



Google has redesigned its search results page in a big way. Apart from tweaking the colours and shading of its name, it has created a new menu on the left. This enables you to switch quickly from a standard text display of your search results to seeing just the results that are video, images, books, etc. A look at the screen shots demonstrates this.

Better still, give it a test-drive yourself. First start your web browser – Firefox, Chrome, or Internet Explorer, etc.

In the usual Google slot, type **hybrid cars**. When the results page appears, click in turn on the options in the left hand column and see how the display changes each time. If the word **More** is on the list of

options, click on it to see the complete range of choices.



Is Your Subscription OverDue?

Please keep us out of the RED!

On a Lighter Note!

- ✓ Heart attacks...God's revenge for eating his animal friends
- ✓ Help Wanted: Telepath. You know where to apply.
- ✓ Honesty is the best policy, but insanity is the better defence.
- ✓ I can please only one person per day. Today is not your day. Tomorrow isn't looking good either.
- ✓ I don't have an attitude problem. You have a perception problem.

Windows Remote Assistance

Most of us have someone we can call on when those computer problems get on top of us. If it is the guy next door, that's simple. He just pops round, sorts it out over a cup of tea then off home again.

What if your personal guru is that family member who lives the other side of town, in Wellington or even Sydney? Not so simple but 'Windows' has an answer. Windows Remote Assistance.

To quote from Windows Help

"Sometimes the best way to fix a problem is to have someone show you how. Remote Assistance is a convenient way for a friend in another location to connect to your computer from another computer running a compatible operating system, such as Microsoft Windows XP, Vista or 7, and to walk you through your solution.

After your friend is connected, he or she will be able to view your computer screen and chat online with you in real time about what you both see. With your permission, your friend can even use his or her mouse and keyboard to work with you on your computer."

The technique varies depending on which Windows systems are being used, so I cannot give a 'blow by blow' description of the procedures. With the help of your 'guru', it shouldn't be too hard to establish the connection. Use the Windows 'Help' or 'Search' facilities and you will find good descriptions of this and other remote assistance avenues

Is Remote Assistance safe? It isn't a facility you would give to everyone, so make sure you trust the other party. You can place time limits on the facility so that each occasion of use needs your permission

And they ask why I Like Retirement?

Question: How many days in a week?

Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?

Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

Question: How many retirees to change a light bulb?

Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

Answer: The term comes with a 10% percent discount.

Question: Among retirees what is considered formal attire?

Answer: Tied shoes.



Our SeniorNet Club is very dependent on the voluntary work of so many people. They keep the important administrative tasks up-to-date as well as provide the coaching staff for all our courses. It is pleasing to see the great job done by Pamela Davison-Howie and her husband. They have made a wonderful job of weeding and planting the little garden in front of our Clubrooms. This was a great effort as the soil was compacted and full of weeds and grass. Thanks from us all.

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

Words for the Web-Wise

Each newsletter you will see the suggestion outlined above that you spend time checking out the club's web site. If you receive the newsletter by email you can link directly to the site using the above address.

For the novice wishing to get more from the computer, the world wide web (aka www) is a real treasure trove and there is no better Open Sesame than your own SeniorNet site. I list below some of the content and links;

- A timetable of the club's courses and other activities. You will see that there have been changes to some of the courses – the email course is now based on 'Windows Live' and 'Picture Editing' has been adapted to more recent versions of the freeware used.
 - What's on at the weekly 'Question & Answer' sessions which recently discussed 'Facebook' & 'Twitter'. These are fascinating interactive sessions where we all learn from each other.
 - A listing of, and links to, lots of Freeware programs that can be downloaded from the web. In many cases there is a run down of the program's features and details of how to use them. I personally use at least six of these programs to supplement the 'paid for' ones.
 - Computer Buyer's Guide.
 - Copies of past Newsletters.
 - Links to community and computer clubs. Do not miss the link to 'Quick Reference Cards' which cover most Microsoft programs
- All this and so much more!

More Happy Surfing