

TAURANGA SENIORNET

MEMBER OF THE NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF SENIORNET CLUBS INC.

Newsletter August, 2010

Compiled by Ken White

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"I HAVE A DREAM" are words made famous by Martin Luther King jun. Your SeniorNet club has also long dreamed of having a more advanced course in Picture and Image Editing. This became a reality in July when we launched **Picture and Image Editing - Level 2**. The course was prepared by Bob Callcut with invaluable help from John Whalley. This course introduces the Freeware programme Paint.NET which ensures that all students are on a level playing field. It also includes usage of FastStone Image Editor and PhotoFiltre. The most important element introduced is LEVELS. Levels are the basic building blocks for most Photo and Image Editing. Imagine a pile of transparent plastic envelopes each containing a part of the creation which can be worked on individually and kept separate until merged to make your final picture. There are also many more advanced uses of the tools that were introduced in the Level 1 course. The course received a big thumbs-up from the students who attended this inaugural offering and will become a must-do for members wishing to advance their skills. A lot has been learned and fine tuning will be ongoing.

To attend this course, the Level 1 course must have been successfully completed.

Paint.NET works on the Microsoft .NET Framework, pre-installed on Windows Vista and Windows 7, but **NOT** on XP. If you have Broadband, when downloading Paint.NET you will automatically be transferred to Microsoft and the .NET Framework will be installed. If however you only have Dial-up then please bring your USB stick to the course and we will load both for you.

The original courses now go back seven years with a major revision 3/4 years ago. It is appropriate that a fresh approach has been taken to take advantage of the advanced software now available.

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

Email;

taurangaseniornet@xtra.co.nz

Web-site;

www.taurangaseniornet.co.nz

Committee;

Chairperson - Brian McWilliam

Secretary - Position Vacant

Treasurer - Mike Molen

From the Chair

As we move steadily through the third term of the year, your Management Committee has been busy up-grading the computers and accessories in the Centre. hopefully reducing the causes of complaint from delays and frustrations that were part and parcel of dealing with older equipment. Our computers are now more up-to-date and reliable than before

As a result of offering courses in "Open Office", more students are enrolling than they are in Microsoft Word 2007. The first is a free download programme and the latter has to be purchased. However, providing the Open Office programme to the computers of students, has presented its own problems, ranging from large distance of travel to the student's home to finding that the student's computer is not capable of having the Open Office programme downloaded. It has also become apparent that Microsoft is not happy supporting Open Office on its operating system and it has not been as easy to perform all of the exercise functions on Open Office as we thought we would. The position needs to be reviewed to see where we go for next year.

We are working on arranging for a speaker to address us with a presentation on the "Microsoft Office 2010" programme, which has recently become available. So we hope to see you all at the next Club Day on Friday 27th August 2010. (A calendar note is the way to go) Cheers

Brian

85? Born in 1925? Congratulations!

The **University of Auckland**
Is carrying out
A longitudinal study into
'**Life and Living in Advanced Age**'

Come and join those who have
Already participated in the

LILAC Study

➤ Interview

➤ Free Health Check

Phone **Denise** now on **571 0672**

at the

Western Bay of Plenty PHO

Research Centre

On a Lighter Note

- I'm the life of the party - even when it lasts 'till 8pm.
- I'm usually interested in going home before I get to where I'm going.
- I'm the first one to find the bathroom wherever I go.
- I'm smiling all the time because I can't hear a word you're saying.
- I'm very good at telling stories - over and over and over and over.
- I'm well aware that other people's grandchildren are not as bright as mine.
- I'm so cared for - long-term care, eye care, private care, dental care.
- I'm not grouchy, I just don't like traffic, waiting, children, politicians...
- I'm positive I did housework correctly before the Internet.
- I'm having trouble remembering simple words like... uh...
- I'm realizing that aging is not for sissies.
- I'm sure they are making adults much younger these days.
- I'm wondering, if you're only as old as you feel, how could I be alive at 150?
- I'm supporting all movements now - by eating bran, prunes and raisins.

- I'm a walking store of facts, it's just that I've lost the key to the store.
- I'm a Senior Citizen and I think I am having the time of my life... Aren't I?

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Microsoft Security Essentials

We are constantly urged to protect our computers against the hazards of our internet connection. If we buy a new computer, the chances are that there will be a pre-installed anti-virus program, either a short-term trial version (for which payment will ultimately be required) or one of the free programs that are available.

There have been many articles written promoting specific programs (or drawing attention to their failings). What isn't always clear to the 'newbie' is that viruses aren't the only nasties out there. It is not my intention to compare programs so this article is to preview a comprehensive and free program provided by Microsoft

Microsoft Security Essentials provides real-time protection for your home PC that guards against viruses, spyware, and other malicious software. It's a free download from Microsoft that is simple to install, easy to use, and always kept up to date so you can be assured your computer is protected by the latest technology. It's easy to tell if your PC is secure — when you're green, you're good. It's that simple. .

To download the program, go to the following web site;

www.microsoft.com/Security_Essentials/

You may view an 'Installation Video' if you wish, see to the left of the Download button. Press the 'Download Now' button and you will see the following screen;

Download Microsoft Security Essentials

Microsoft Security Essentials is available in many locales and languages. To download Microsoft Security Essentials, choose your preferred locale or language from the list below. Next, choose your operating system to begin the download process. If you're unsure which operating system you have, please visit [Microsoft Support](#).

Locale or Language
English

Operating System

- Windows XP 32-bit
- Windows Vista/Windows 7 32-bit
- Windows Vista/Windows 7 64-bit

If you have Windows XP select the first of the options in the bottom right-hand corner. If you have either Windows Vista or Windows 7, unless you **know** you have the 64 bit version, opt for the second (32 bit) option and the download should start. Just follow the prompts.

Sold on Webmail

In the past I have tried out the popular webmail programs, G-mail and Yahoo mail, but have kept using the Windows Mail program that's on my computer because that's where I felt most comfortable about storing correspondence. So why am I suddenly sold on webmail? Because of a hardware disaster; that's why.

Recently I was working with my flash new Windows 7 computer and left it for 15 minutes to do another task. On returning to the computer I was confronted with a blank screen and the computer cycling alternately between the empty DVD drive and the C: drive in a fruitless attempt to reboot. The data on the disk was inaccessible and the machine had to be taken away for repair. There were recent backups of documents, but none of the current emails.

That's when the penny dropped – by using webmail the problem would have been insignificant. The mail is always there, out in cyberspace – or more accurately, stored on hard drives somewhere that's hopefully secure. So, out with the trusty Windows XP laptop, use Windows Explorer to log on to the Yahoo-Xtra webmail page and there's my incoming mail, the list of email contacts and all the tools for sending, receiving and storing email messages – plus a really good calendar/task scheduler. And the beauty of it is that when the flash new computer is returned to duties I can use it to see the same messages, use the same contacts list, get reminders from the same calendar/scheduler, access the archived messages in the personalised folders and so on. It ensures seamless operation even when using different computers from one day to the next.

Another advantage is that if you change from one internet service provider to another you keep the same Gmail or Yahoo mail address – no need to be writing to friends and businesses advising them of a change of email and hoping you've remembered them all.

Ken White will be reading this and thinking, “Told you so.” To see what he wrote about Gmail, go to the Tauranga SeniorNet website, scroll down the list of Newsletters on file and open the November 2008 Newsletter. Its all in there.

So if you haven't given webmail a test drive, try it. Use your web browser to open the Google home page (www.google.co.nz). Click on Gmail in the list of links across the top of the page, sign up for a free Gmail account and give it a thorough test drive.

John Whalley

The Tauranga SeniorNet Club Inc;

Club Day

At the Learning Centre, 17th Avenue

Next to Historic Village

1.30 pm. - Friday 27th August

Speakers;

To be arranged

Gold Coin Donation – Refreshments

Included

All Members are Welcome

Genealogy

Have you compiled your Family Tree yet?

SeniorNet holds classes for those members who wish to do this. A number of years ago these classes were very popular and nearly always full. As we now have a large number of newer members, it is timely to remind them of our Family History Course.

The program used is Personal Ancestry File 5 (PAF5) and is a free program given to students. It was designed by the Church of the Latter Day Saints who maintain the largest genealogy database in the world. PAF5 is easy to use and has various printout formats for displaying and printing your tree. It is similar to other such programs, students should have no problems with it, even if they have a similar program on their computer.

From my own experience, it is only when you start researching your family history that you find long-lost relatives. In my case, I came in contact with a cousin in Melbourne with whom I had lost contact 30 years ago, we now communicate regularly. I also discovered a third cousin in London. He was at the time managing a genealogy database (which was very useful) and we met for the first time when I last visited the UK.

We give students guidance on where to search for information on their ancestry, and we also arrange a visit to the Family History centre in Tauranga.

Start searching your family history, who knows where it may lead and to whom you may be related.

Mike Molen

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Club Secretary

It is with regret that I have to advise you that Julene O'Keeffe who was to take up the position as our Club Secretary, has told me that due to ill-health in her family, involving both her partner and her son, she is not able to continue in that role and has resigned forthwith.

On being told of this news, Jean Holmes, our former Club Secretary, has kindly offered her services to continue on with those duties, whilst we search to find a suitable person to take over. This is the second time where Jean has returned to help us out of our dilemma and we are all indebted to her for the generosity of her response.

However, the task is set before us again of finding a suitable member who is willing and able to fill this vacancy and to be given training leading up to eventually taking over. A Job Description is available setting out the tasks to be attended and as I understand the position it would probably involve attendance at the Centre for a few hours on two days of the week attending those matters of administration normally associated with the running of a small voluntary organisation such as ours. Guidance, back-up and support is available from current members of the Committee in respect of their portfolios. There is a token remuneration of \$40 monthly for petrol costs.

The matter of this vacancy is to be the major item on the agenda at the next meeting of our Management Committee on Friday 20 August 2010 but I did want all of our members appraised of the situation, as it a matter which concerns us all. The problem will remain unless or until a member volunteers to become involved and offers to join the Management

Brian McWilliam

The Danger of Showing Your Face

The issue of privacy protection on social networking websites is an ongoing dilemma but Facebook appears to be making progress in alleviating the growing problem.

The listing of personal information on these websites was common practice when they first emerged in the early part of this decade; Facebook was launched in 2004 and MySpace in 2003.

However, with the immense growth of the internet and with that, the popularity of these and other social networking websites, the

dangers of having too much personal information available has become a problem.

Risk of abuse

It is open to abuse, whether it is something as simple as being open to email spam opportunists, or for businesses to review a person's personal life when screening job applications, though to sinister acts involving scams that steal money or personal identity.

People are learning to limit the amount of information they upload to social networking websites and schools are now teaching children about the dangers of the internet, akin to the 'stranger danger' classes of yesteryear.

Fighting back

But the websites themselves are now fighting back against waves of criticism from online communities and mainstream media about their initially lack lustre stance on privacy.

Facebook has now announced that it is offering a one-stop shop for privacy settings, after part of the criticisms targetted at this website revolved around its complicated settings interface.

The redesigned privacy page allows users to see all their information in one grid and to apply privacy settings to each, with Facebook suggesting defaults.

Reduced information

Facebook has also reduced the amount of information available to 'strangers', and people have better control of their 'friend' list.

But all this is too complicated for some people and the option of removing themselves from the cyber world entirely is much more appealing. That is not so simple and with Facebook an urban legend has existed that to delete an account is impossible.

The legal route of this legend is that Facebook takes ownership of all material uploaded to it and therefore the user loses all rights to it. This includes the ability to delete material as it is no longer their property.

But there is a method to delete a Facebook account. It involves deactivating the account and then asking Facebook to delete it This can be done by visiting:

www.facebook.com/help/connect.php?show_form=delete_account

A person is allowed a change of mind with their Facebook deletion. The time limit on this is 14 days. By logging into the account within this period, the deleted account can be retrieved.

Courtesy NZ Herald

Keep on Surfing – but – Take Care

Ken