

Newsletter January, 2011

Compiled by Ken White

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Greetings,

Notice our new SeniorNet Logo, this replaces the rotund person balancing the globe in one hand with one foot on a computer. The slogan, 'Learning technology together', is meant to more accurately reflect the objects of Senior Net.

Rather than being published mid-term, your newsletters are now being distributed prior to the start of term. This is so all members can be kept right up to the minute with all the courses available over the term.

Each Term's newsletter will now include the full timetable as the final page. As well it is hoped to include some information and detail on the courses available as well as other activities. Apart from the tri-monthly club days, Friday afternoons are frequently available for question and answer session. You will read in our Chairman's comments that John Whalley is stepping down from that role. Hopefully there will be some volunteer replacements. As well there will be several workshops on specific subjects notably in the area of picture and photo editing.

The Level Two Image Editing Course was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all participants. This is a fairly new course which introduces one more of the great free programs we keep finding for you. Paint.net is a step up from previous programs we have used, and enables effects not possible in some of the simpler programs. It is a prerequisite that the Level One course has been completed.

Would you note that the Registration Date has been set for Tuesday 18th January 10.00 am till 2.00 pm at the club rooms.

Remember, this newsletter can only be up to date at the time of issue, for truly current information make sure to check the club web site - www.taurangasenior.net.co.nz - for any late changes to our programme.

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

Email;

taurangasenior.net@xtra.co.nz

Note from 1st February will be

taurangasenior.net@clear.net.nz

Web-site;

www.taurangasenior.net.co.nz

Committee;

Chairperson - Brian McWilliam
Secretary - Irene Gabbie
Treasurer - Mike Molen

From the Chair

Hi Folks! With another year, 2010, done and dusted, we have dealt with several issues and challenges but there are even more ahead which I regret I need to burden you with and call upon you to help to resolve.

Val Fleet, **Registrar**, will not be continuing in that role after the A.G.M in March and we need someone urgently to be trained to take over that job. Irene Gabbie, our **Secretary**, has recently taken on employment and is not able to continue with us in the long term. She is prepared to stay with us in the short run until we find someone to replace her. John Whalley, **Head Coach**, has stood down from taking the Friday afternoon Q & A session which he has taken for several years. We need an experienced member, or indeed a small group of members, who could work as a team in organising topics for the members who regularly attend that session.

I had every intention of standing down from the position as Chairman at the next A.G.M but in the light of changes mentioned above, I am willing to carry on, if required, and particularly if there is no other member offering to take over from me.

We really do need volunteers to step forward and offer their time, skills and service for the well-being of our club.

Note that with effect from 1 February 2011 the Club's e-mail address changes to:

taurangasenior.net@clear.net.nz

Will you also note details of our Courses for 2011 set out in this Newsletter and also listed on our Web-site: www.taurangasenior.net.co.nz

Hope things go well for us in the coming year.
Cheers,

Brian

My Grandparents are retarded now!

We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live in a big brick house, but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Tauranga. Now they live in a tin box and have rocks painted green to look like grass. They ride around on their bicycles, and wear name tags, because they don't know who they are anymore. They go to a building called a wreck centre, but they must have got it fixed because it is all okay now. They do exercises there, but they don't do them very well. There is a swimming pool too, but they all jump up and down in it with hats on.

At their gate, there is a doll's house with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out, and go cruising in their golf carts. Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And, they eat the same thing every night - early birds. Some of the people can't get out past the man in the doll house. The ones who do get out bring food back to the wreck centre for pot luck. My grandma says that Grandpa worked all his life to earn his retardment and says I should work hard so I can be retarded someday too.

When I earn my retardment, I want to be the man in the doll's house. Then I will let people out, so they can visit their grandchildren.

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Photo and Image Editing.

There is good news for all members who are interested in Photo and Image Editing. Starting at the beginning of Term One this year, we will be running some workshops on Friday afternoons; the proposed start time will be 12.45 pm. These workshops will enable members to discuss their problems and learn how to approach new projects, and extend the knowledge obtained while on the image editing courses. They will most likely be held in small groups around individual computers and not the course tutorial style you are accustomed to.

The Level 2 course is based on Paint.NET. This is an excellent programme for teaching but is rather limited. To extend our knowledge we will be introducing the excellent professional quality image editing programme, the GIMP, which is a very extensive programme, with the added advantage that it is free. Unfortunately we will not have available Photoshop or Paint Shop Pro, but may be able to help solve problems that you are experiencing, as many problems are solved in a similar way in different programmes.

If you are interested in knowing, Gimp stands for **G**nu **I**mage **M**anipulation **P**rogram.

It is a free program developed by the 'Open Source' group of developers. 'Gnu' is an operating system, a work in progress.

It is expected that these workshops will also include the related subjects, Photography and Drawing. They will be open to all club members for a gold coin donation. They are in no way intended to replace the courses. They will be of greatest benefit to those who have completed the Photo and Image Editing Level Two course, so perhaps members will be encouraged to take the courses.

The first workshop is scheduled for 11 February next, there will be a nominal \$2.00 entry fee. Please watch the club web site to confirm the starting time and date.

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Digital Photography Course

There are still vacancies in our digital photography class for the first term starting in February 2011. If you have a digital camera but are not familiar with all the features in your camera, this is the course for you. Do not be one of those people who say, "I can't be bothered reading the manual, it is too hard to understand and I take all my photos on 'auto'".

While you can take good photos with the auto feature, you can take even better photos by using scenic, white balance or other modes contained in the camera. Do you know how or when to use forced or fill-in flash, how to use the flash with outdoor photography, when to turn your flash off, or to take photos through glass? If not, join one of our digital photography classes in. The course in digital photography covers all these and more aspects of photography.

Why Back-up your data?

How often have we been told that we must back up our important personal data?

A new reason has been revealed. The New Zealand isles really are shaky as was very evident during the recent earthquake in Canterbury and it became apparent that earthquakes can damage your hard drive.

The big quake caused few problems for most computers as it occurred in the early morning when most were turned off. The aftershocks were a different matter as they occurred at all times of the day. They caused considerable damage to computers, some hard drives were so badly damaged that data was irrecoverable. Insurance will pay for the ruined hardware but your data, all those family photos etc., is gone for good.

Death of the Phone Book

What's black and white and read all over? Not the white pages, which is why regulators in the US have begun granting telcos the go-ahead to stop printing residential phone books.

New York, Florida, Pennsylvania and Virginia have quit distributing residential white pages, while over a dozen others are getting approval to do so. Only 11% of U.S. households now rely on the residential white pages. It seems most consumers now check the internet rather than flip through pages

How long before it is the same in New Zealand? Do your children/grandchildren use a phone book? Mine don't. "Anybody who doesn't have access to some kind of online way to look things up now is probably too old to be able to read the print in the white pages anyway," they joke.

Also, eliminating residential white pages would reduce environmental impact by using less paper and ink. Did you know - the first telephone directory was issued in

February 1878 - a single page that covered 50 customers in New Haven, Connecticut.

Today more people rely solely on cell phones, whose numbers aren't included in the listings; more up to date listings are available online; and phones can store numbers. Land lines have been declining and now are being disconnected at a rate of nearly 10 percent each year.

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PhotoStory compiles a slideshow from a set of images

It is a free program from Microsoft which enables you to convert a set of separate pictures into a slideshow. Music or a recorded narration can be added to the show. Text (captions, etc.) can also be added to pictures.



Enhancements include a variety of slide transitions and the ability to create an effect where the camera appears to be zooming in or out of the picture, or moving (panning) across the picture.

The slideshows are saved in wmv (Windows Media Video) format for playing on a computer. You can use Windows Media Player or similar programs to burn the slideshow onto DVD or CD in a form that will run on any DVD or CD player. It is a great way or making a photographic record of a special event so that it can be given or mailed to friends on a CD or DVD.

The Tauranga SeniorNet Club Inc;

Club Day and A.G.M.

At the Learning Centre, 17th Avenue

Next to Historic Village

1.30 pm. - Friday 25th March

Gold Coin Donation – Refreshments Included

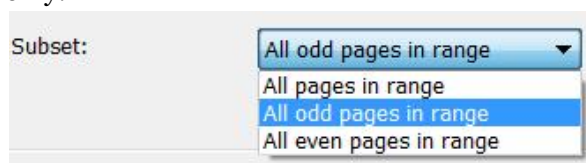
Add your input to this occasion

PhotoStory is easy to use, with clear, on-screen instructions. To see information about obtaining and using this free program, visit our website; www.taurangasenior.net.co.nz and click on the link to Photo Story. It's on the front page

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Double-sided Printing

Most home printers do not have the ability for double-sided (duplex) printing. It is still possible though to print a pdf file such as this with a standard printer. Within the print facility is the option below to print odd pages only.



Use it to print pages 1 and 3, reverse the pages and the print 'all even pages in range'. A couple of warnings, watch how these pages emerge and ensure you reverse them correctly. Secondly, there is a tendency for pages printed on one side to stick, two pages entering the print process together will ruin you work! It pays to give your pages time to dry and cool before printing the second side. With a small print run I suggest you print pages 2 and 4 individually.

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Change of Pace

- I haven't lost my mind. It's backed up on a disk somewhere.
- Computers are like Old Testament gods; lots of rules and no mercy.
- There are worse things than getting a call for the wrong number at 4 am. It could be the right number.
- Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people just once a year.
- Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak

Timetable and Course Fees – Term One – 2011

Dates and times will be confirmed following registration.

The courses will run only where there are sufficient enrolments.

All participants receive an instruction manual which is included in the course fee.

Course Title	Time	Start/Finish	Duration	Fee	Notes
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Monday

Computing Skills OpenOffice	9.00 to 11.00 am	7 Feb / 4 Apr	9 weeks	\$74	B
Introduction to Computers	11.30 am to 1.30 pm	7 Feb / 7 Mar	5 weeks	\$10	A,C
Computer Skills	11.30 am to 1.30 pm	14 Mar / 11 Apr	9 weeks	\$74	
Internet	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	14 Feb / 7 Mar	4 weeks	\$34	
Email	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	14 Mar / 11 Apr	4 weeks	\$34	

Tuesday

File Management	9.00 am to 11.00 am	8 Feb / 8 Mar	5 weeks	\$40	
Burning CD's	9.00 am to 11.00 am	15-Mar	2 hours	\$8	
Digital Photography	11.30 am to 1.30 pm	8 Feb / 8 Mar	5 weeks	\$40	
Digital Photography	11.30 am to 1.30 pm	15 Mar / 12 Apr	5 weeks	\$40	
Introduction to Computers	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	8 Feb / 8 Apr	5 weeks	\$10	A,C
Computing Skills	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	15 Mar /24 May	9 weeks	\$74	

Wednesday

Introduction to Computers	9.00 am to 11.00 am	9 Feb / 9 Mar	5 Weeks	\$10	A,C
Introduction to Computers	9.00 am to 11.00 am	16 Mar / 13 Apr	5 Weeks	\$10	A,C
Picture Editing level 1	11.30 am to 1.30 pm	9 Feb / 9 Mar	5 Weeks	\$40	
Picture Editing level 2	11.30 am to 1.30 pm	16 Mar / 13 Apr	5 Weeks	\$40	
Computing Skills OpenOffice	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	9 Feb / 6 Apr	9 Weeks	\$74	B

Thursday

No Course	9.00 am to 11.00 am				
Introduction to Computers	11.30 am to 1.30 pm	10 Feb / 10 Mar	5 Weeks	\$10	A,C
Introduction to Computers	11.30 am to 1.30 pm	17 Mar / 14 Apr	5 Weeks	\$10	A,C
Computing Skills	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	17 Feb / 14 Apr	9 Weeks	\$74	A

Friday

No Course	9.00 am to 11.00 am				
No Course	11.30 am to 1.30 pm				
Special Interest Group	12.45 pm to 1.45 pm			Gold Coin	D
Questions and Answer Group	2.00 pm to 4.00pm	Most Fridays		Gold Coin	D
A.G.M.	1.30 pm	25th March		Gold Coin	

Note A: These Introduction to Computers and Computing Skill Courses are for Microsoft WORD 2007 onwards

Note B: These Computing Skills Courses are for OpenOffice Writer only.

Note C: The \$10 charge is for manuals only. There is no charge for your tuition for new members doing the Introductory course.

Note D: Check web site for weekly changes.