

Newsletter January, 2012

Compiled by Ken White

bevken@gmail.com

New Year Resolutions

What will you do to make 2012 different? For me it will be to learn something new. After some twenty years of 'learning computers', my to-do list just seems to get bigger. My most recent acquisition, an Android smartphone, gave me a new learning curve. We may find that SeniorNet will be able to help us with that one this year.

Some of us are quite happy to work through a problem on our own. There are lots of good books out there in the libraries and bookshops. But for most, nothing beats joining other 'seekers after knowledge' in the classroom. Your SeniorNet coaches, who can match or even beat you for age, have all been through the same process.

Computing *is* fun, just attend a Friday workshop to find that out. Check the courses on page five, Picture Editing and Powerpoint are just two of the options available. **Go for it.**

Ken

Would you note that the Registration Date has been set for Tuesday 17th January, 10.00 am till 2.00 pm at the club rooms.

From the Chair

Hi Folks,

I canvassed all members some months ago, seeking to find a member prepared to join the Management Committee to be responsible for making application for grants and donations. These are available from organisations which provide funds for Charitable Clubs such as our own. Nobody has put themselves forward. This is a shame because it would readily provide a revenue stream, easing the strain of continually finding the funds necessary for us to exist.

The Management Committee has recently up-dated the terms relating to the payment of the annual subscription fee, as well as the fees payable to attend our courses. For a long time there have been misunderstandings and dissatisfaction about having to pay a full annual subscription, when the student joins half-way through or later, in the year, or in fact whether

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

Email;

taurangaseniornet@clear.net.nz

Note our new email address!

Web-site;

www.taurangaseniornet.co.nz

Committee;

Chairperson - Brian McWilliam
Secretary - Viv Campbell
Treasurer - Jan Cattermole

the student should pay any of the annual subscription fees. We have clarified the position by having the annual subscription payable by all members, with a proportional reduction for those joining in the second, third and fourth terms. This will be a fairer system for all concerned.

We have also increased the Course Fee payable from the rate of \$3 per student/hour to \$5, with the cost of the respective Course Manual to be added. The student/hour rate of \$3 was set, at the inception of the club, 16 years ago and has never had an increase since, until now. It would have been preferable if there had been small incremental increases over the years but that never happened. As a result there will need to be further regular increases in the future if the club is to remain viable.

The new pricing structure can be viewed in our Website, www.taurangaseniornet.co.nz, go to the Timetable near to the top of the page, click the link to view a printer-friendly version. The timetable and pricing is also on page five of this newsletter.

We would welcome members to offer themselves for the position of Chairman at the AGM which will be held on the 30 March 2012. There is a member who is looking at the position and what it involves but is making no firm commitment at this stage. It would be an advantage to have a number of members offering their services. The AGM is not that far off.

Brian

Do you know how to forward emails?

Every time you forward an email there is information left over from the people who got the message before you. Their email addresses and names. As the messages get forwarded, the list builds, and all it takes is for one to get a virus, and his computer can send it to every address that has come to his computer. Or, someone can take all of those addresses and sell them. How do you stop it? Well, there are several easy steps

1. When you forward an email, first you must click the "Forward" button and then you will have full editing capabilities against the body and headers of the message. Delete all the other addresses that appear in the message.

2. Whenever you send an email to more than one person, do NOT use the To or Cc fields for adding addresses. Always use the Bcc (blind carbon copy) field for listing them. This way the people you send to will only see their own email address. If you don't see your Bcc option, click on where it says To and your address list will appear. Highlight the address and choose Bcc. When you send that way your message will automatically say "Undisclosed Recipients" in the To field of the people who receive it.

3. Remove any "FW:" in the subject line. You can re-name the subject if you wish or even fix spelling.

4. Always hit your Forward button from the actual email you are reading.

5. Have you ever received an email that is a petition? It states a position and asks you to add your name and address and to forward it to 10 or 15 people or your entire address book. The email can be forwarded on and on and can collect thousands of names and email addresses. The completed petition is actually worth dollars to a professional spammer because of the wealth of valid names and email addresses contained therein. Never put your email address on any petition. If you want to support the petition, send it as your own personal letter to the intended recipient.

Some other emails to not forward are:

- a. The one that says something like, "Send this email to 10 people and you'll see something great run across your screen". It doesn't, we are still seeing some of the same emails that we saw 10 years ago!

- b. Don't let the bad luck ones scare you either, delete them.

- c. Before you forward an alert, or some of the other emails floating around, check them out first. Most of them are junk mail that's been going round for years! Just about everything you receive in an email that is questionable can be checked out at Snopes. Just go to www.snopes.com. It's really easy to find out if it's real or not. If it's not, please don't pass it on.

So in the future, let's stop the junk mail and the viruses.



SeniorNet Notice

The club has a surplus of its SeniorNet pens which are being made available to Members for the price of \$3. Speak to your coach about these attractive pens.

I've been everywhere, man!

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there. I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore. I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often. I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older. One of my favourite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

But one place I don't ever want to be is in Continent.

SeniorNet Federation

TelstraClear is one of the many sponsors and supporters of SeniorNet to provide special benefits. Check out www.seniornet.co.nz to find the many bargains available.



Friday Workshops

These workshops ran all last year, they proved very popular and were well supported. The range of topics covered has been broad, from new technologies to pop-out pictures and Christmas cards. The main thrust has been to advance the knowledge gained from the many courses run at the Tauranga SeniorNet, particularly Picture and Image Editing. It's fair to say that we have answered most of the questions that members have raised.

One feature that we have run with is the colourful email notices sent out to all members every week. These show how easy it is to send an interesting email rather than a simple black and white type message.

The workshops will resume from the start of Term 1 and we hope to be able to be more interactive. As usual, we will send an email reminder. Don't forget, we answer questions from both beginners and the more advanced members. If you have any subjects that you would like to learn more about, let me know.


Best wishes for 2012.

Bob Callcut



A Free Picture Editing Program for the Grandchildren

Phoxo is a program that uses multiple layers and has all the basic image editing features – cropping, rotating, adjusting brightness and colour, cloning, drawing and painting, making colour gradients, adding text and fixing red-eye. What makes it interesting for children is the range of image stamps, patterns and distortions that can be easily applied on a picture or selected areas of a picture. So when they come visiting, you will have something to keep them happily occupied.

 The Help features are really good. A “callout” button on every window gives clear context-sensitive directions. The usual Help button on the Toolbar opens on-line assistance that is comprehensive and clearly written.

The installation file is available from download.cnet.com. If you are asked whether to save or run the file, choose *Run*. If you are not given the ‘run’ option, save the file to a location you can easily find and then run it. When the process asks if you want to also get the Babylon Toolbar, choose *Decline*.

Internet Sites

Below is a brief list of interesting and useful sites. Used wisely you can save time and money.

PriceSpy:

For comparison of technology items, phones, computers, audio etc. www.pricespy.co.nz is the site to visit. Just search through the product list or use the Search Box to find an item. You may sort by price or other features

PriceMe:

Another site for online shopping and price comparison is www.priceme.co.nz. This is not limited to technology but covers a whole range of household products including clothing and even automotive items.

TelMe:

A new site from Consumer which compares telecommunication type plans. If you are concerned your telephone, TV or internet bill is too big try www.telme.org.nz

DPReview:

For the digital photography enthusiast, this site compares many different cameras and their accessories at www.dpreview.com/

Power Savings:

The cost of power has increased greatly over recent years. The following two sites give you the chance to compare prices and to switch providers if you so choose;
www.powerswitch.org.nz
www.switchme.co.nz

Vroomvroomvroom

If you or your visitors from overseas want to compare car rental prices, this is the site for you. www.vroomvroomvroom.co.nz.

By the time you receive this newsletter, Christmas will be well and truly behind us. Perhaps this article will get your shopping juices flowing again!

Call me old-fashioned!

According to a French IT company, email could ‘follow telex into the dustbin of tools for communication we have loved and discarded’. Its 75,000 staff will phase out internal emails over the next 18 months, to be replaced with instant messaging (IM.)

Teenagers are already shunning the ‘middle-aged’ email first developed 40 years ago. Among the 12-17 year age group, email usage is down 31% and in the 18-24 group 21% this year alone. It is being replaced by text messaging, twitter, and Facebook.

We oldies are already aware that our grandchildren broadcast their activities on Facebook. If they have ‘friended’ us, we can share in all their thoughts and emotions on their Facebook page and view the photos taken and uploaded direct from their mobile phones.

Yes. I know that Spam is estimated to account for 89% of all email, but I still like to communicate one-on-one with my friends that way. Call me old-fashioned!

On a Lighter Note

You know you are getting old when;

- *You stop lying about your age and you start bragging about it.*
- *You're smiling all the time because you can't hear a thing anyone is saying.*
- *You're very good at telling stories over - and over - and over!*
- *You start Christmas shopping in August*
- *You know that other people's grandkids are not as cute as yours*
- *You're not grouchy; you just don't like traffic, waiting, crowds, and politicians.*
- *Others ask for your recipes.*
- *When the phone rings you hope it's not for you.*
- *People ask what color your hair used to be.*
- *You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.*
- *You don't like to drive after dark.*
- *You say "Turn that music down!"*
- *You point out what buildings used to be where.*

Enjoy your Christmas and New Year

Ken

Timetable and Course Fees – Term One – 2012

Dates and times will be confirmed following registration. The listed courses will run only where there are sufficient enrolments.

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

Monday	Time	Period	Duration	Course Fee	Notes
Computing Skills	9.00 am to 11.00 am	30 Jan - 2 Apr	9 weeks	\$110	A
Introduction to Computers	11.30 am to 1.30 pm	30 Jan - 5 Mar	5 weeks	\$65	A
Computing Skills (Ctd Term 2)	11.30 am to 1.30 pm	12 Mar - 2 Apr	9 weeks	\$110	A,B
Internet	2.00 to 4.00 pm	13 Feb - 5 Mar	4 weeks	\$55	
Email	2.00 to 4.00 pm	12 Mar - 2 Apr	4 weeks	\$55	
Tuesday	Time	Period	Duration	Course Fee	Notes
File Management	9.00 am to 11.00 am	31 Jan - 28 Feb	5 Weeks	\$65	
Burning CD's	9.00 am to 11.00 am	6 Mar - 13 Mar	2 Weeks	\$30	
Introduction to Computers	11.30 am to 1.30 pm	31 Jan - 28 Feb	5 Weeks	\$65	A
Introduction to Computers	11.30 am to 1.30 pm	6 Mar - 3 Apr	5 Weeks	\$65	A
Computing Skills	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	31 Jan - 27 Mar	9 Weeks	\$110	A
Wednesday	Time	Period	Duration	Course Fee	Notes
Introduction to Computers	9.00 am to 11.00 am	1 Feb - 29 Feb	5 Weeks	\$65	A
Computing Skills (Ctd Term 2)	9.00 am to 11.00 am	7 Mar - 4 Apr	5 Weeks	\$110	A,C
Picture Editing level 1	11.30 am to 1.30 pm	1 Feb - 29 Feb	5 Weeks	\$65	
Picture Editing level 2	11.30 am to 1.30 pm	7 Mar - 4 Apr	5 Weeks	\$60	
Spreadsheets	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	1 Feb - 22 Feb	4 Weeks	\$55	D
Digital Photography	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	7 Mar - 4 Apr	5 Weeks	\$60	
Thursday	Time	Period	Duration	Course Fee	Notes
Power Point	9.00 am to 11.00 am	2 Feb - 1 Mar	5 Weeks	\$65	
Introduction to Computers	11.30 am to 1.30 pm	2 Feb - 1 Mar	5 Weeks	\$65	A
Introduction to Computers	11.30 am to 1.30 pm	8 Mar - 5 Apr	5 Weeks	\$65	A
Computing Skills	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	2 Feb - 29 Mar	9 Weeks	\$110	A
Friday	Time	Period	Duration	Course Fee	Notes
No Course	9.00 am to 11.00 am				
No Course	11.30 am to 1.30 pm				
Special Interest Group	1.00 pm to 3.00 pm	Most Fridays in term		\$2	E
A.G.M.	1.30 pm	30th March	Gold Coin	Gold Coin	

Note A: These *Introduction to Computers* and *Computing Skills* courses are for Microsoft WORD 2007/2010.

Note B: This Skills course has 4 weeks in Term One and 5 weeks in Term Two.

Note C: This Skills course has 5 weeks in Term One and 4 weeks in Term Two.

Note D: To do the Spreadsheet course, students must have the program Excel 2007 or 2010 on their computer.

Note E: Weekly emails advise the key topic for the session. No enrolment required. All Members welcome.