PRESIDENT'S POST, Clive Dyson

Hi Folks.

Polly and I have been in Motueka just over two years now and one of the many things that has impressed us is the sense of community, the real caring and support for one another that is evident. This is no less evident in our SeniorNet club. Sometimes however, people fall through the cracks. They suffer illness, bereavement, hospitalisation or other traumas and because we didn't know, we were unable to support them. I ask members to please let our almoner know so she can send a card and support those who are going through difficult times. Joan Damian in the past has been our almoner and has done a fantastic job over the years. She has been away for a while and so the committee appointed our new committee member Kay Mathieson-Adams to take on the role for now. Please keep Kay up to date with the needs of our group.

Committee
Well the elections are over. At least the club ones are, the British ones are yet to happen. We have all been re-elected except Mary who has resigned after serving a great seven years. We also have the pleasure of welcoming a new committee member, Kay Mathieson-Adams. She has jumped in boots 'n all and taken on responsibilities as assistant membership secretary and will also assist as needed with the Newsletter as well as the role of almoner as mentioned above.
The committee also appointed John Croxford as our new vice president and I'm sure he will do a great job in addition to looking after the health and safety aspects of the club..

Security
We have had a pretty good year and now we are coming into the silly season where we have a lot of out-of-towners come to visit our great town. Amongst these people are a few opportunists who like to be on the take and spoil it for everyone. I ask all of us who have access to the rooms to make sure to leave them secure when we leave: lights, switches and the urn off, windows and doors locked and the alarm set.

So until I talk to you again next month. Take care.
Regards

Clive

More IT Dilemas

Tech support: What's on your monitor now, ma'am?
Customer: A teddy bear my boyfriend bought for me at Kmart.

Customer: can't get on the Internet.
Tech support: Are you sure you used the right password?
Customer: Yes, I'm sure. I saw my colleague do it.
Tech support: Can you tell me what the password was?
Customer: Five stars.

Customer: I have a huge problem. A friend has placed a screen saver on my computer, but every time I move the mouse, it disappears.

Customer: My keyboard is not working anymore.
Tech support: Are you sure it's plugged into the computer?
Customer: No. I can't get behind the computer.
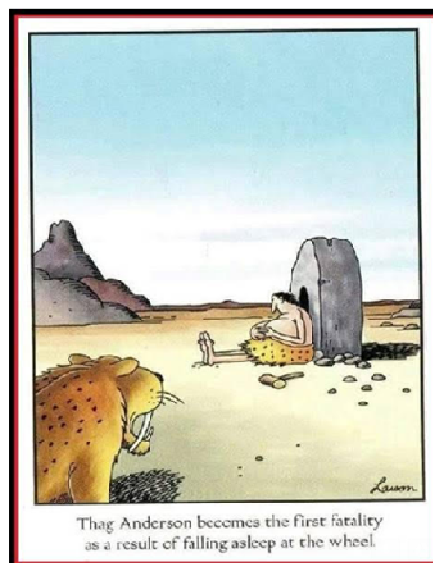**Tech support:** Pick up your keyboard and walk 10 paces back.
Customer: ! OK
Tech support: Did the keyboard come with you?
Customer: Yes
Tech support: That means the keyboard is not plugged in. Is there another keyboard?
Customer: Yes, there's another one here. Ah...that one does work...

Thag Anderson becomes the first fatality as a result of falling asleep at the wheel.

"SeniorNet is a community training network that supports & motivates people aged 50+ to enjoy & use technology in their everyday lives."

THE MYCROFT PROJECT—from the Hutt City Seniornet newsletter by Peter Andersen.

The Mycroft Project, a service I've used for years, is a collection of over 24,000 OpenSearch & Sherlock Search Engine Plugins for internet browsers. OpenSearch is supported by 🦊Firefox, 🌐Internet Explorer and 🟢Chrome. Sherlock is supported by 🦊Firefox, and other Mozilla based browsers. I have used these only with Firefox.

(For the literary minded, Mycroft was the fictional detective Sherlock Holmes' smarter (but lethargic) brother.)

When I enter a search term in the browser search box in my Firefox browser (but not the omnibox where you type web addresses) I'm presented with a number of options that I can click on to search. Here is my current search box, and the searches I can make right from my browser, with just a mouse click.

Firstly of course, Google. Then in order,
Google images, Google maps, Youtube,
The free Dictionary, Etymology Dictionary and Synonyms.
Wikipedia, Ebay US, Yandex (Russian search).
Baidu search (Chinese search), Trademe for sale and Trademe sold items.
AliExpress and Gearbest, the two overseas suppliers I use. And finally Mycroft Project to enable me to add more items should I wish.

I can easily change the order, add more or delete items I no longer need.

In this example I'm searching for SCISHION AI ONE smart TV Box (I purchased one recently for around $104 to make my dumb TV smart). It gives me the ability to view the Google search as well as pictures, Youtube videos (there are several) and the two overseas suppliers I buy from. I can also check to see if there is this item on Trademe (there wasn't). All by just typing the search term once.
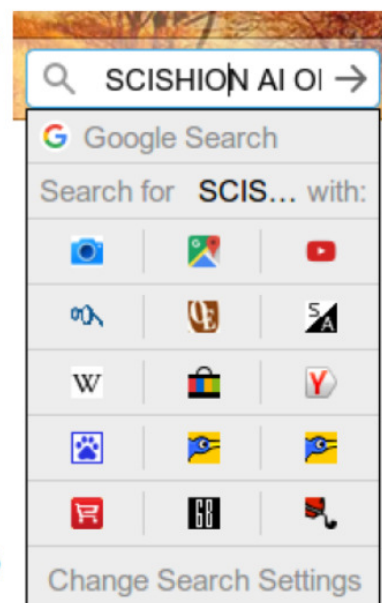
I find that by using the add ons available from the Mycroft Project my searches are supercharged. If you use one of the supported browsers I would recommend you try this service to enhance your searches.

IS THIS ALMOST YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER??

If you have not renewed your subscription by the end of next month your details will be removed from our membership database.
We don't want to lose you!
Best value in Motueka, just $25 a year....get that payment made today!!

NEW ZEALAND'S OLDEST BUILDING SOCIETY

NBS
NELSON BUILDING SOCIETY

185 High St, Motueka
Telephone
03 528 1111
Email
motueka@nbs.co.nz

Dates for your Diary

MEMBERS' MEETING:
Mon 2nd Dec 10am: *Guest speaker* AGE CONCERN
Followed by lunch (with Christmas cake!) Members to bring a plate of finger food to share.
ALSO please bring a contribution of non-perishable food (tin or packet) to add to our Christmas basket for the Salvation Army .
HELP & SUPPORT "one-on-one" SESSIONS:
Saturday 2-4pm Dec 7th & 14th *only*
INTEREST GROUPS:
Fri 6th Dec 2.30pm: *Digital Photography*
Fri 13th Dec 2.30pm: *Genealogy*

END OF YEAR BREAK

More than 10

You might be interested in this work around to create more than 10 stops in Google maps, see https://www.morethan10.com/
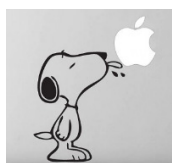A useful tool when you are planning holiday trips, setting up a simple route around the area for garden trails, visits to relatives, garage sales......

Sometimes, I shock myself with the smart stuff I say and do. Other times, I try to get out of the car with my seat belt on.

MIG report, *by Anton Petre*

A close look at the Mac's Finder was one of the main topics at the October Mac Group. This included a closer look at the new Catalina operating system which has brought quite a few improvements to the Finder, along with other developments. A MacMost video also showed how there are many clever little tricks in the Finder to make it easier to move, copy and reorganise files and folders. The Finder's Search tool also came in for some study.

Some good questions from folk, as well --- why the "spinning beach ball of death" sometimes appears, how to use the Force Quit command to end a misbehaving program, and the hidden trap with USB thumb drives: after deleting items off one, then empty the trash before doing anything else. Otherwise although the listings on the thumb drive disappear, the space the items used remains "reserved" an unavailable on the drive.

That is why sometimes folk delete everything from a thumb drive and then find they still do not have any space available on it.

The problem of the Mail program "hanging" was reported by two people – a Google search showed this is a known problem and has been for some time, but the cause seems to be unknown, and the only answer is to Force Quit the program and re-open it.

Plainly a bug in the software, but what triggers it, nobody seems to know. Luckily it is not common.

If you're a Mac user, come along to a group meeting and tell us of your ideas, tricks and problems. You will undoubtedly learn quite a lot --- that's the benefit shared knowledge.

iPPIG meeting, *Peter Beaumont*

After our opening fun video, Colin showed us a video titled "Seven ipad settings to turn off now". This was on saving battery and data usage. The advice was to switch off many sharing options such as analytics and my location, unnecessary system services, background app refresh and change push mail to fetch. An interesting video worth watching again.

Peter then showed a Macmost video from Gary on iphone camera tips. This included the vital grid to make all of us better photographers. Gary also showed the use of long exposure on a live video. This gives a mist effect on the moving water rolling into the shore on the photo he demonstrated. He was using the iphone 11 which has 3 photo lenses. Peter also went through the ios13 updates to the photos app showing the photo categories of Years, Months, days and all photos. The removal of screenshots and documents from the Years, Months and days photos (still available in all photos) makes for a smooth presentation of your photographs through time.

Sandra showed us how to use magnifier to act like a telescope in photos bring greater magnification to objects further away. She also showed how to find a song title when you only know some of the lyrics. In iTunes store, type the lyrics you know into the search field. iTunes will offer songs fitting your lyrics and you can play a portion of the song.

Colin finished the meeting with a quiz. Teams were formed and named and he showed 24 different ipad icons for the teams to name. The "clever clogs" won closely followed by "the front row". Prizes were awarded to the clever clogs with all other participants receiving chocolate fish.

Trish made a wonderful cream cake decorated with strawberries to complete the last meeting for 2019.
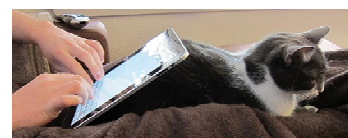
What is a virtual private network (VPN)?

In recent years, it's become easier for **your online activity to be tracked**. Internet service providers (ISPs) have access to your browsing activity, and it's not difficult for cybercriminals to steal sensitive information. So how do you maintain your privacy from all of this? One possibility is something called a **virtual private network**, or **VPN**.

A **VPN** provides a more secure way of connecting to the Internet that **protects your browsing activity from being tracked** by the parties mentioned above. Unlike a standard Internet connection, your ISP and hackers won't be able to see your browsing activity.

How a VPN works

With a typical Internet connection, you connect through your ISP, which allows you to visit any websites you want. All your activity passes through your ISP's servers, they see everything you're doing. A VPN works differently. Instead of connecting to the Internet using your ISP's server, it **uses a server in another country**. Your browsing activity made through this connection is **encrypted**, i.e. it's **completely secure and safe from eavesdropping**. It can only be seen by you and the VPN service. Unfortunately, using a VPN will **decrease your Internet speed**. This encryption process is time consuming, and your data also must travel farther than normal.

If you're using a VPN on a mobile device, it will **only protect activity within your browser**. Any app activity or GPS data will still be reported to the apps' servers.

Why use a VPN?

The main reasons you'd want to use a VPN are to **maintain your privacy** and **increase your security**. While using one, your ISP won't be able to see your data or know which websites you're visiting; it will only see that you're connected to a VPN server.

Another big benefit is that VPNs give you **more security while using public Wi-Fi hotspots**. Most of these public connections are **unencrypted**, making it easier for hackers to spy on your activity and steal your login credentials or other sensitive information. However, if you're using a VPN, they won't be able to see this because you'll be using an encrypted connection. In addition to individual use, many businesses use VPNs. They allow them to protect any sensitive data like client information, financial records, and more.

How to choose a VPN service

There are a lot of VPN services out there, and it can be difficult to sort through them all. As a starting point, there are plenty of helpful guides & reviews that offer a list of the best available services. Some of the more popular VPNs include **IPVanish**, **NordVPN**, and **Buffered VPN.**Here are a few factors you might want to take into consideration:

1. **Pricing**: While free VPN services are available, **we recommend going with a paid service** instead. Free versions will most likely have lower speeds, more limited functions, and ads. Some services charge monthly or annual fees, while others offer a single lifetime fee instead.
2. **Speed**: The Internet speeds available will vary from service to service.
3. **Data usage**: Much like phone plans, some VPN services only allow you to use **a set amount of data** within a certain time period.
4. **Logging policies**: Even though your ISP won't have access to your data, your VPN service will. Some paid versions and many free versions may **log your data**. If this bothers you, you may want to look for a VPN that doesn't log your activity.
5. **Simultaneous connections**: Some VPN services might only allow you to have **one device connected to their servers at a time**. If you plan on using a VPN for multiple devices, you'll want to find a service that offers simultaneous connections.
6. **User reviews**: One of the best ways to find out if a service is reliable and credible is to **do your own research** and **see if it's well reviewed**.
7. **Mobile capabilities**: If you want to use a VPN with your mobile device, you'll want to **make sure it offers a mobile app**. Most services offer both desktop and mobile versions, but it's always good to double check.

Once you find a VPN that seems like a good fit, you can download the app and get started. Most will guide you through how to set it up and use it. If you have any questions, you can contact the VPN's support services.

VPNs provide you with a much higher degree of privacy than your standard Internet connection. Even though they have a few downsides like slower Internet speeds and having to pay, it's probably worth it if you're worried about your online privacy and security.

[*Sourced from* https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/thenow]

SENIORNET SNAPSHOT—SUMMARY OF OUR MEMBER SURVEY

Thank you to members who responded to our survey during mid July-mid September. The committee now knows your likes, dislikes and needs (the technological ones anyway!!) There was a 34% response rate.

Not surprisingly 54% of respondents joined SeniorNet to learn computer skills and increase their technical knowledge, with 21% wanting to learn about a particular topic or device. We are glad to know that 86% of those who participated felt satisfied with what they had gained.

We are happy to harvest a long list of ideas from you on future topics and activities which could be offered. Action on this depends on having enough tutors with the time, ability and energy to develop courses. But we are also thinking laterally and have ear-marked some subjects for covering as a 5 minute topic at the members' meeting, we will look at getting more external speakers, technical tips and new developments will continue to be disseminated via the newsletter. Self help tutorials will be sourced and recommended. Perhaps you can bring your pet topic/query to the new Saturday afternoon one-on-one sessions? We note the wise comment "we don't know what we don't know until we don't know" and this causes us to scratch our heads too!

Very interesting to see what technology you use in your daily lives, with the top ranking as follows:
EMAIL 100%, SEARCHING THE NET 91%, PHOTOS 88%, BANKING 74% WORD PROCESSING 68%, ONLINE SHOPPING 60%, YOUTUBE 59% ,BOOKING HOLIDAYS/CINEMA 54%, FACEBOOK 50%, GPS & MAPS 49%. Seems to me there is a lot of expertise you could be sharing with fellow members??

77% of you rate yourselves as confident using IT/manage well enough to get by. So we need to find out what are the extras you need, or is liking the social aspect which 36% of you ranked highly the answer? Gratifyingly for me, 81% of respondents find out what is happening at SeniorNet via the newsletter, but talking to other members (38%) + getting information at monthly meetings (38%) was also mentioned —so clearly the social contact is important to you.

Of course it is impossible for the committee to respond to everything—would like personal help at home, sessions to be shorter/longer, retirement is busy need a course on finding more hours in the day, etc.

Finally, thank you for your appreciative comments, telling us you like the friendly helpful support, the companionship, the fun, the sharing of ideas, that we given you confidence with your computer, that we're helpful and well organised, excellent value........

Sandra Louise Price

LOOK OUT FOR THESE 3 INTEREST GROUPS IN 2020!!

ADUG (Android Devices User Group) For current & would be owners of smartphones & tablets using the Android operation system, covering a variety of devices, e.g Samsung Galaxy & Huawei phones, Android & other operating systems, & apps. Will meet on the 4th Thursday of the month 2.30-4.30.

CCIG—the Countries & Cultures Interest Group will meet on the 2nd & 3rd Thursdays of the month during term time 2.30-4.30. Members will select a country in advance & research information to share & discuss. Sometimes there will be an outside speaker.

MMG (Modern Media Group) A variety of topics in this fast changing area of technology will be covered, e.g. Smart TV & alternatives, streaming services & on demand TV, VPN, online radio stations, podcasts, music streaming services, bluetooth speakers, e-readers, magazines, newspapers, devices & apps for this purpose. Will meet on the 1st Thursday of the month 2.30-4.30.

More information on the above groups can be found on our website under the Interest groups menu. *Note that they are open to members only. $2 per session for coffee & biscuits.*

Tips saving photos to & from ANDROID phones & tablets

To transfer pictures to desktop computer or laptop from Android Phone or Tablet

Make a folder on the computer or laptop as to where the pictures are to go. e.g. a subfolder under the "Pictures" folder could be an appropriate place. Give the new folder a name.

With the Phone or Tablet plugged directly to the computer or laptop, all actions from now on take place on the computer keyboard and the computer mouse. The phone or tablet becomes a passive source of data

Open "File Explorer" in the computer status bar (yellow icon – bottom of screen). Find the phone or tablet in the left hand pane. Go through folders until you find "DCIM", then "Camera" or any other folder where the photos have been stored.

Select all the photos using "Control A" or select a block of photos by left clicking on the first required photo, hold down "Shift" and click on the last required photo. A block of photos will be highlighted. Copy these photos to the computer clipboard by clicking on the "Copy" icon in the "Home Ribbon" at the top of the screen or use "Control C". Note: Nothing changes on the screen.

Using the computer mouse, go to the new folder that was previously created on the computer or laptop. Once the folder is open, click on "Paste" in the "Home Ribbon" or hold down "Control" and tap "V". The pictures have been copied from the Smartphone or Tablet to the computer.

Note 1: Should you only require random photos to be selected, click on the first required photo, hold down "Control" permanently and left click with the mouse on other random photos then continue from item 6 above.

Note 2: Use the above method to transfer pictures directly to a memory stick that is plugged into the computer or laptop.

To transfer pictures from Android Tablet to Android Phone via a Memory Stick

The simplest way is to use a Desktop or Laptop Computer (above). If one is not available, then proceed as follows:-

Required: A USB memory stick that has dual plugs. A USB at one end and at the other end, an Android plug. Note: Only later models of tablet can perform this action

The App "File Manager" does not readily lend itself to this procedure. Download the App "ES File Manager" or "Solid Explorer" With one of the file manager APPS, create the required folders on the memory stick or check that the folders you will be using are there. Plug in the dual plug USB stick to the device 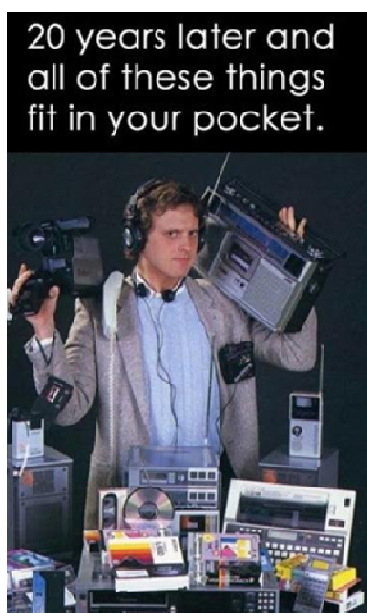you are to download items from (e.g. the Tablet). Choose the file manager app you have previously downloaded e.g. "ES File Manager" or "Solid Explorer". Find the required picture on the tablet – press down on the picture until a tick appears – copy (copy could be just an icon looking like two pieces of paper). Find the previously created folder on the memory stick and paste. Close down all APPS. Remove the USB stick in the correct manner. You are half way

Plug the USB stick into the receiving device – the Smartphone. Again using "ES File explorer" or "Solid Explorer", find and select the item that is being transferred which will be on the memory stick – copy. Proceed to an appropriate folder on the Smartphone or create a folder – paste. Done

[Source: Alan Roberts, Tauranga SeniorNet Newsletter]

MAIN POINTS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

* The new committee discussed & apportioned tasks. John Croxford agreed to take on the role of Vice President for the coming year, new member Kay Mathieson-Adams was welcomed.

* The trial of Help & Support "one-on-one" sessions every Saturday 2-4 has been deemed a success & this format will continue in the new year.

* It was noted that that Heather Newell is to be Grant Sidaway's replacement as SeniorNet Federation CEO.

* A financial statement for October was presented by treasurer Allan. The request from the Charities Services to supply an annual total of volunteer hours at our learning centre was discussed, but deemed too difficult—some committee members/tutors spend up to 40 hours a week on SeniorNet matters at peak times.

* Course Co-ordinator Sandra advised of a proposal to set up three new interest groups. (These are advertised on page 5 of this newsletter with more detail on our website).

* It was decided to hold a catered finger food lunch in late January to thank the tutors and committee for their contributions during 2019.

* Maintaining the security of our building was discussed, particularly in relation to hiring arrangements to outside groups.

* There are currently 168 members who have renewed their subscriptions for the new year.

* Webmaster Bernhard is planning a review of our website, attempting also to get some meaningful usage statistics.

20 years later and all of these things fit in your pocket.

MacHint, *from Eden Roskill's newsletter*

How to block pop-ups in Safari

Learn how to block annoying pop-up ads on your iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, or Mac.

Pop-ups can be ads, notices, offers, or other alerts that open over or under your browser window, in another tab, or in your current window. Some pop-ups use phishing tactics—like warnings or prizes—to trick you into believing they're from Apple or another trusted company, so you'll share personal or financial information. Others might claim to offer free downloads, software updates, or plugins, to try to trick you into installing unwanted software. Unless you're confident of an ad's legitimacy, you should avoid interacting with pop-ups or webpages that seem to take over your screen. Here are additional tips that can help you manage pop-ups and other unwanted interruptions.

Check and update your software

Always make sure you install the latest software updates for all your Apple products. Many software releases have important security updates and may include improvements that help control pop-ups.

The safest place to download apps for your Mac is the Mac App Store. If you need third-party software for your Mac, and it isn't available in the App Store, get it directly from the developer or another reliable source, rather than through an ad or link.

Check Safari Settings and Security Preferences

Make sure Safari security settings are turned on, particularly Block Pop-ups and Fraudulent Website Warning.

On your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch, go to Settings > Safari and turn on Block Pop-ups and Fraudulent Website Warning.

On your Mac you can find these same options in the Security tab of Safari preferences. You can also click the Extensions tab in Safari preferences to check if you have any extensions installed that you prefer to turn off.

Pop-ups and ads in Safari

If you see an annoying pop-up in Safari, you can go to the Search field and enter a new URL or search term to browse to a new site. If you don't see the Search field on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch, tap the top of the screen to make it appear.

Some popups and ads have fake buttons that resemble the close button, so use caution if you try to close a pop-up or ad. If you're unsure, avoid interacting with the popup or ad and close the Safari window or tab.

If you might have installed adware or other unwanted software on your Mac

If you see pop-ups on your Mac that just won't go away, you might have inadvertently downloaded and installed adware (advertising-supported software) or other unwanted software. Certain third-party download sites might include programs that you don't want with the software that you install.

ZEN QUOTES....

» It's always darkest before dawn. So if you're going to steal your neighbour's newspaper, that's the time to do it.

» Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.

» Always remember that you're unique. Just like everyone else.

» Never test the depth of the water with both feet.

» If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments.

» If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

» Some days you're the bug; some days you're the windshield.

» Duct tape is like "The Force." It has a light side and a dark side, and it holds the universe together.

» Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

» The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and leaky tyre.