Motueka SeniorNet
Learning technology together.

Newsletter
February 2020

PRESIDENT'S POST by Clive Dyson

Hi folks,

Greetings at the beginning of 2020 and I trust that the Christmas break went well for you. As I said, (and got howled down) at the last members meeting, we may not all have 20/20 vision but all of us can have a positive vision for 2020!

The year got off to a good start with the members' meeting having a quiz as the main feature. Some said the questions were difficult but congratulations to the team named "Brain dead' (a misnomer if ever there was one). They each won an 8 Gig flash drive.

The big news is that this year we are to see the start of three new interest groups: on the 1st Thursday 2.30-4.30 pm will be the Modern Media Interest Group (MMIG), The 2nd & 3rd Thursdays (*during term only*) will be the Countries and Cultures Interest Group (CCIG), and on the 4th Thursday will be the Android Devices User Group (ADUG). For further details about these groups I suggest you go to the club website to find out more. https://seniornetmotueka.org.nz .

It was with great sadness that we learned that our dear friend and founding member Jim Butler passed away on the 6th February at the grand age of 95. We will all miss Jim but he will never be forgotten for he has left behind him a lot of happy memories in the hearts of all that knew him.

Well that is all for now and I look forward to seeing you all at the next members' meeting on March 2nd when Gene, from Affordable Computers, will talk to us on the subject of Security. Meanwhile, take care.

Regards, *Clive*

WORRIED ABOUT MEMORY LOSS ?

you may find this piece from a Kawerau SeniorNet newsletter of interest.

French Professor Bruno Dubois Director of the Institute of Memory and Alzheimer's Disease (IMMA) at La Pitié-Salpêtrière - Paris Hospitals addresses the subject in a rather reassuring way:

"If anyone is aware of his memory problems, he does not have Alzheimer's."

1. I forget the names of families ...
2. I do not remember where I put some things ...

It often happens in people 60 years and older that they complain they lack memory. The information is always in the brain, it is the "processor" that is lacking. This is "Anosognosia" or temporary forgetfulness. Half of people 60 and older have some symptoms that are due to age rather than disease. The most common cases are: - forgetting the name of a person, - going to a room in the house and not remembering why we were going there - a blank memory for a movie title or actor, an actress, - a waste of time searching where we left our glasses or keys ...

After 60 years most people have such a difficulty, which indicates that it is not a disease but rather a characteristic due to the passage of years. Many people are concerned about these oversights hence the importance of the following statement: "Those who are conscious of being forgetful have no serious problem of memory. Those who suffer from a memory illness or Alzheimer's, are not aware of what is happening."

"The more we complain about memory loss, the less likely we are to suffer from memory sickness."

Notes from the February Committee meeting

A meeting was held on January 29 with representatives from the Toy Library with whom we share the building.

It was reported that our cleaner Rosalie retired at the end of 2019. The committee accepted Allan's application to take on this job for the coming year.

Statements of receipts and payments for December 2019 and January 2020 were provided by our Treasurer Allan. It was proposed that at the next meeting, we discuss a forward budget to enable forward planning.

It was decided that we send 2 representatives from Motueka to the upcoming National SeniorNet AGM and conference in Dunedin in May; currently Clive and Sandra are volunteering to attend.

Our Membership secretary Maureen reported that we have 193 members (including Life Members). Sandra presented an Education report for January and the upcoming term 1. David reported that our security/alarm code for our entry doors has been updated.

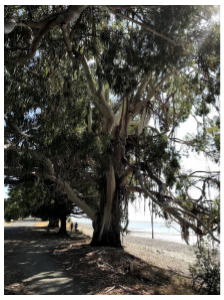
Our website was not accessible on January 13—browsers detected a security issue. Bernhard our webmaster resolved this after a long phone call with the webhost. Bernhard has been refreshing the design of our pages e.g. the use of just one side panel (cleaner look and easier for viewing on Smartphones) and our sponsors' ads are displayed better at the bottom of the page.

The committee sadly reported the death of Jim Butler. A minute's silence will be observed for him at the next members' meeting.

February DIG report, *by Maureen Hutton*

Nine members come to the first meeting of the year. We enjoyed a variety of photos from members' summer holidays. We talked about the year ahead and what we wanted to do, We enjoyed short videos by Mike Browne who does lots on photography. We watched one named "mistakes that beginners always make" and he showed how to avoid making those same mistakes. We viewed another on taking macro photography.

In March we are having hands on at the meeting practising various topics we will set up in the room e.g. macros, still life, etc. So come along with your camera and tri-pods (if you have one) for taking macros. All SeniorNet members are welcome.



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MARCH dates for your Diary

Mon 2nd 10am: **Members' Meeting** . *Guest speaker*: Gene of Affordable Computers, speaking on "Security"
Thurs 5th 2.30pm: *Modern Media* **Interest Group**
Fri 6th 2.30pm: *Digital Photography* **Interest Group**
Thurs 12th 2.30pm: *Countries & Cultures, pt1* **Interest Group**
Fri 13th 2.30pm: *Genealogy* **Interest Group**
Mon 16th 9.30am: **Help & Support** *IOS & Apple devices*
Thurs 19th 2.30pm: *Countries & Cultures, pt2* **Interest Group**
Mon 23rd 9.30am: **Help & Support** *PC & Android*
Fri 20th 2.20pm: *iPad & iPhone* **Interest Group**
Thurs 26th 2.30pm: *Android Devices* **User Group**
Fri 27th 2.30pm: *Mac* **Interest Group**
Tues 31st 7.30pm: *Genealogy* **Interest Group**

COURSE SCHEDULE FOR REST OF TERM 1, 2020

Android Devices, Introduction

DATES: Thursdays 5th, 12th & 19th March (3 weeks) **TIME/COST:** 12-2, $15 for members

TUTOR: Mary Dowell, 03 528 8600, marydowell63@gmail.com

Budget management made easy with Excel

DATES: Fridays 6th, 13th , 20th & 27th March (4 weeks) **TIME/COST:** 12-2, $20 for members

TUTOR: Colin Hope, 03 528 9734, 198water100@gmail.com

Chromecast

DATES: Tuesday 24th March (1 week) **TIME/COST:** 2.30-4.30, $5 for members

TUTOR: Bernhard Nobis, 03 929 8101, bernhard.nobis@gmail.com

Facebook Refresher

DATES: Wednesday 1st April (1 week) **TIME/COST:** 12-2, $5 for members

TUTOR: Annie Coster, 03 540 3301, ranchocoster@gmail.com

Contact tutor to register, or for more information.

Full details also on our webpage.

Note that course fees are double for non-SeniorNet members.

Geneaology Research in the UK

DATES: Fridays 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th March (4 weeks) **TIME/COST:** 9.30-11.30, $20 for members

TUTOR: Gail Riddell, 0274 777 033, riddelldna@gmail.com

Google Photos

DATE: Wednesday 25th March (1 Week) **TIME/COST:** 10.30-12.30, $5 for members

TUTOR: Sandra Price, 0212 645 233, sandralouiseprice@gmail.com

Internet Culture & New Terminology

DATES: Wednesdays 26th February & 4th March (2 Weeks) **TIME/COST:** 10.30-12.30, $10 for members

TUTOR: Sandra Price, 0212 645 233, sandralouiseprice@gmail.com

Mac Basics

DATES: Mondays 10th, 17th & 24th February (3 weeks) **TIME/COST:** 2.30-4.30, $15 for members

TUTOR: Clive Dyson, 03 929 8002, clivedyson.nz@gmail.com

Online shopping

DATES: Wednesdays 11th March (1 week) **TIME/COST:** 9.30-11.30, $5 for members

TUTORS: Annie Coster, 03 540 3301, ranchocoster@gmail.com & Maureen Hutton, ahutton440@gmail.com

Pages for iPad

DATES: Mondays 23rd & 30th March (2 weeks) **TIME/COST:** 2.30-4.30, $10 for members

TUTOR: Clive Dyson, 03 929 8002, clivedyson.nz@gmail.com

Pages for Mac

DATES: Mondays 9th & 16th March (2 weeks) **TIME/COST:** 2.30-4.30, $10 for members

TUTOR: Clive Dyson, 03 929 8002, clivedyson.nz@gmail.com

Read E-books with the Tasman Libraries' LIBBY app

DATE: Tuesday 17th March (1 Week) **TIME/COST:** 2.30-4.30, $5 for members

TUTOR: Kay Mathieson-Adams, 0211 095902, pigsmightfly28@me.com

Recording precious memories

DATES: Wednesdays 12th & 19th February (2 weeks) **TIME/COST:** 12-2, $10 for members

TUTOR: Annie Coster, 03 540 3301, ranchocoster@gmail.com

Windows 10

DATES: Tuesdays 3rd, 10th & 17th March (3 weeks) **TIME/COST:** 2.30-4.30, $15 for members

TUTOR: Mary Dowell, 03 528 8600, marydowell63@gmail.com

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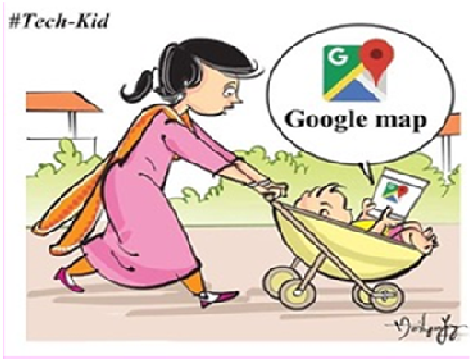
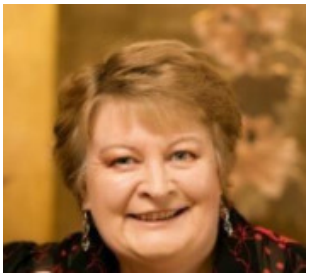




NEW CEO FOR THE SENIORNET FEDERATION

As most of you know, Grant Sidaway, the long standing CEO of our SeniorNet Federation, retired last year. We learn that he was awarded the MNZM in the New Year Honours list for his services to seniors and to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) education. Well done Grant!

His replacement is Heather Newell. She has a lot of experience in the ICT sector and also in fundraising. We look forward to meeting her.

Plug-and-play PhoneBook can turn smartphone into a laptop

Our phones are incredibly powerful little computers, letting us work, play & stay connected no matter where we go. But that portability can also be a problem – a small screen is less than perfect for writing documents, playing games or watching movies. Now the company, "AnywareTechnology", has unveiled the **PhoneBook**, an affordable plug-and-play device that turns any smartphone into a laptop.

At a glance, the PhoneBook looks like any other laptop. It has a 15.6-in IPS LCD screen with Full HD resolution, stereo speakers, full-size keyboard/trackpad combo & battery lasting up to eight hours. It comes in a slim profile, black or silver.

But it's what's inside that counts – & in this case, that's nothing! That's because the brains of the PhoneBook are provided by your phone. You simply plug it into the USB port on the side of the device & you've got instant access to a larger screen, better speakers, & a full-size keyboard.

It works with any iPhone or Android device, so no matter which system you prefer you can scale it up. If you still want to navigate via touch, the PhoneBook's large display is a touchscreen. Or for more traditional users, there's the keyboard & trackpad, plus you can plug a mouse into one of the USB slots.

That will make it much easier to type out a document for work, or just for chatting to friends on social media. The larger screen & stereo speakers will make for a better viewing experience for movies & TV shows on the go.

Mobile gaming has ramped up in recent years, but touchscreen controls are still not ideal. The PhoneBook can give you the edge over your opponents with the classic keyboard+mouse control combo. It's compatible with major games like *Fortnite*, *PUBG*, *Minecraft*, *Clash of Clans*.

To cap it off, the PhoneBook will charge your phone while it's plugged in.

The best part? The PhoneBook is (apparently) far cheaper than any laptop, & it will be available from December 2019.

Plus, whenever you upgrade your phone, you're basically getting a new laptop at the same time!

[Source = https://newatlas.com/]

Essential tool for enthusiastic gardeners who are IT savvy!!

WINDOWS 7 USERS AHOY!

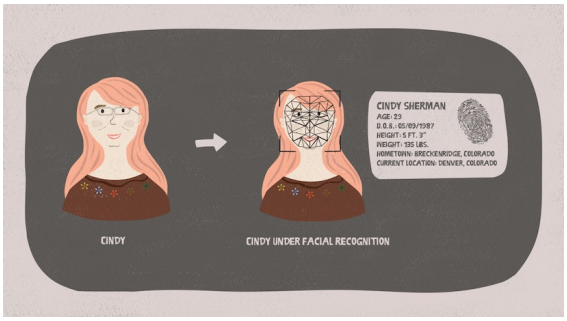
Feeling worried about the end of support for Windows 7? Not sure about upgrading?

Come along to the new Help & Support session on the 4th Monday of each month from 9.30-11.30. We will be concentrating on questions from PC and Android users.

Understanding facial recognition

[Source = https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/thenow/ **]**

Facial recognition is a computerized method of identifying people based solely on their facial features. These systems range from small cameras that can detect different emotional responses to pinpointing the identities of multiple people in a moving crowd.



How does it work?

A high-definition camera **captures images** of a person's face and checks for specific **facial landmarks**, such as the distance between the eyes, width of the nose, and shape of cheekbones. The recognition system then compares these findings to faces within its **database**. The more images that are in the database, the more likely the system will be able to identify the face.

Where is it used?

Facial recognition has a wide range of applications. Casinos use it to help identify troublemakers before they start gambling. Stores use it to find known shoplifters. In Germany, a billboard can recognize the gender and age of passersby and display an ad only when women are near. The strangest use may be in Spain, where a comedy club uses facial recognition to charge customers a small fee every time they laugh.

Law enforcement has long been interested in facial recognition and has deployed it at airports, train stations, border crossings, and sporting events around the world, hoping to catch wanted criminals and prevent terrorist attacks. However, the technology has not proven effective enough to be considered reliable.

Currently, facial recognition technology is most successful on **Facebook**, where it's used to tag users in photos. Because Facebook holds billions of photos and receives millions more every day, its database is constantly growing. And because its users help identify the subjects of the photos, Facebook can learn what a person looks like from different angles. Thanks to the quantity and quality of its data, Facebook is 97.35 percent accurate when recognizing a face in an image.

What are its problems?

Despite the potential of facial recognition, the technology is still not ready for public use on a massive scale. The biggest problem is that a number of things can **confuse** the technology, including poor lighting, sunglasses, or masks. There are even clothes and glasses that have been designed with the sole purpose of disrupting facial recognition systems, like the glasses shown below.

Invasion of privacy is also a concern, as many of these systems could potentially start collecting facial data without your consent whenever you enter a public place. Unfortunately, there are currently no federal laws in the United States that directly govern facial recognition. There are also concerns that institutions like the FBI could demand access to facial databases (like the one owned by Facebook) and gain a wealth of personal information.

What's the future of facial recognition?

Until the technology improves, it's difficult to say exactly how the future will be shaped by facial recognition. A lack of computing power, small databases, and image capturing problems currently prevent facial recognition from being more successful. However, these problems will likely be overcome as computers become more powerful and organizations continue to build their facial databases.

There is no estimated timeline of when this technology will be effective enough to become widespread. But whenever that time comes, it may become incredibly difficult to avoid in daily life.

2020 THANK YOU LUNCH FOR COMMITTEE, TUTORS, COURSE ASSISTANTS AND INTEREST GROUP CONVENORS.

The SeniorNet year began on Monday 20th January with a yummy finger food lunch to thank the people who keep the wheels rolling at our learning centre.

Tutors, helpers, committee and interest group convenors contribute a lot of their time to put together and run meetings and programmes each term. On the right, some of those attending the lunch enjoy the delicious savouries, carrot cake, *amazing* profiteroles and fresh fruit provided by caterer Jocelyn at BEEFAIR, 259 High Street (at the Happy Chippy shop).

UPGRADING FROM WINDOWS 7 TO WINDOWS 10?

Be careful of spammers. *[Apologies I don't have the source for this article by John Whalley. Sandra Price]*

With the end of support for Windows 7 coming in January, many users are looking to update to Windows 10 to continue getting security updates and support from Microsoft. According to a recent report from security firm Trustwave, attackers are well aware of this and are targeting Microsoft users with fake Windows update emails that will infect computers with Ransomware -- an especially sinister type of malware that locks up valuable data on your computer, and demands that you pay a ransom to release it or your data will be destroyed.

The spammers are sending some Windows users emails with subject lines "Install Latest Microsoft Windows Update now!" or "Critical Microsoft Windows Update!" The emails, which claim to be from Microsoft, include one sentence in the message body, which starts with two capital letters, Trustwave found. They ask recipients to click an attachment to download the "latest critical update."

The attachment has a .jpg file extension, but is actually a malicious .NET downloader, which will deliver malware to your machine. The ransomware, called bitcoingenerator.exe, encrypts the recipient's files, and leaves a ransom note titled "Cyborg_DECRYPT.txt" on their desktop, asking for $500 in bitcoin to unlock the files.

The ransomware came from a Github account, which was active during Trustwave's investigation but has since been removed, the firm noted. Still, this form of ransomware can be created and spread by anyone who gets hold of the builder, attaching it to different types of emails to get through spam filters.

Most ransomware attacks come in through email, so users should be wary of opening any email attachment or link from an unknown sender, even if it seems to be from a reputable company (hackers impersonate Microsoft more than any other brand when sending spam emails, a May report from Vade Secure found). Misspelled words or poor formatting are often clues of an attack.

"This is a very common type of phishing attack -- where the attacker tries to convince the target to open a malicious attachment," Karl Sigler, threat intelligence manager of Trustwave SpiderLabs, said in an email. "Windows users should understand that Microsoft will never send patches via email, but rather use their internal update utility embedded in every current Windows operating system. Users should always be wary of any unsolicited emails, especially those that present urgency to open attachments or click on links."

MacHint, by Anton Petre

Accents and special characters on the Mac

If you want to spell café with an accent, how do you get that accent over the e? Or get that tilde over the n when you write niño in Spanish? There are a few ways to do it.

First, holding down the Option key (on the bottom row of your keyboard) gives you common diacritical marks: e=´, i=ˆ, u=¨, n=˜, ~=`. To accent a letter, hold down the Option key, type the character representing that accent mark, then type the letter you want underneath it. For example, Option-i then e makes ê.

If you go to System Preferences > Language & Text > Input Sources and put a checkmark in front of "Keyboard & Character Viewer," it puts up a little box at the top right of your screen – it will show as a tiny flag. As you will see, there is a vast range of national keyboard styles to choose from.

Click on that flag icon and choose "Show Keyboard Viewer," and a little keyboard will appear.
Hold down the Option key, and you can see all the special characters you get when using that key as a modifier. Try holding down the Shift key, and Shift-Option as well. You'll see all kinds of characters you can type. The ones highlighted in orange are the ones that follow the tip above.

You have another option as well.

In that same System Preferences window, scroll down and put a checkmark in front of US International – PC. (Note…it's a long way down the list!)

Click the keyboard icon in the upper right corner of your screen again, and make sure it's set to this new keyboard configuration. Now, as in Windows, you can use these keyboard combos:

For á, é, í, ó, ú: press ‘ and directly after that, the vowel.
For à, è, ì, ò, ù: press ` and directly after that, the vowel. (Note that ` is slightly different slightly different from ‘ … on my keyboard, it is located right of the left-side Shift key.)
For ä, ë, ï, ö, ü: press ” and directly after that, the vowel.
For ã, ñ, õ: press ˜ and directly after that, the letter.

☞ Have a play: click that flag icon and choose "Show character viewer" … and you will see how to create characters such as the hand at the start of this sentence!

GREAT RESOURCE: Microsoft cheat sheets

Paste this url in your browser **https://tinyurl.com/yhvnxzos** to link to a site where you will find free guides to help you find your way around several generations of Windows and Office apps. Very useful for increasing your knowledge of Word, Excel, Outlook is you don't use them very much, and particularly good if you have an older version of the software.

[Sourced from computerworld.com 6 December 2019]

www.seniornetmotueka.org.nz

Motueka SeniorNet

Committee 2019-2020

President, Publicity: Clive Dyson

Vice President, Health & Safety: John Croxford

Secretary: Gail Riddell

Treasurer: Allan Culling

Membership, Updating Forms: Maureen Hutton

Technical, Security, Maintenance: Dave Samways

Course Convenor, Newsletter: Sandra Price

Webmaster: Bernhard Nobis

Almoner, Membership & Newsletter Assistant: Kay Mathieson-Adams

Non Committee Roles 2019-2020

Technical Support: Colin Hope

Librarian: Ann Bassford

Housekeeping, Stationery, Photocopier: Mary Dowell

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Some tech trends for 2020, by Alex Hern

[Adapted from theguardian.com December 14, 2019]

The rise of TikTok (social media platform for sharing music videos) is concerning for those who see the company's role in exporting Beijing's censorship & slow adoption of child protection standards as reasons for caution. But among the younger generation, it could have the opposite effect, cementing a perception of China as the home of cool products & services.

Apple's biggest experimental projects: augmented-reality glasses & a self-driving car, are the two worst-kept secrets in technology; both are being developed in Cupertino. The glasses have a release path, & references to them in the code for Apple products show up in beta tests & leaks. The car, for now, has no existence outside of a few offices in Sunnyvale. The glasses won't hit shelves until 2021 at the earliest, & Apple is always wary about pre-announcing things.

Amazon's Alexa is coming fast. Amazon has incorporated its voice assistant into almost every gadget it makes, & a good few it doesn't. But, even though voice assistants remain popular among their devotees, privacy concerns are growing among those who want nothing to do with always-on microphones. If Ford, for instance, starts losing out on sales because of a plan to put Alexa in everything, you can be certain they'll reassess that integration rapidly.

Virtual reality has been the "next big thing" for five years, & has been a big thing for precisely none of those. But just when it was on its way out, there's the potential for one last flurry of attention, thanks to PC gaming company Valve. Their new edition of its popular Half-Life series, the first since 2007, will be exclusive to its VR headset. There have been few titles that can encourage non-believers to spend the thousands required to get high-quality VR at home, but Half-Life: Alyx is one. A lasting resurgence, or just a final flash in the pan?

Your device's homescreen will still look the same. It's been years since any consumer app broke through into the mainstream, with an exception for TikTok among the under-25s; that trend shows no real sign of curving upwards in 2020. Between the dominance of default apps from Apple & Google, plus the ability of the major platforms to acquire, clone or kill upstart competitors, it's a hard time to be a consumer software company. Harder still to become one of the 28 who get a coveted spot on a typical user's homescreen.

Google's Duplex is one of its most impressive, & futuristic, products in recent years. Duplex is an AI assistant that can make calls to local businesses on your behalf to book appointments, find out opening times etc. The tool was criticised for being so good that its use could be described as "deceptive": the AI assistant even injects "um" and "er" into speech to sound more human. That, combined with difficulties of getting consent for receiving automated cold calls, means the technology might be kept from European shores for years.

ODD THOUGHTS .....

* Remember what the valet who parked your car looks like, because we don't have valet parking.
* A married man's honest confession. I always read my wife's horoscope to see what kind of day I'm going to have.
* We just had a guy come into our autoparts store to ask if we sold longer dipsticks cos his doesn't reach the oil any more.
* If you're sitting in public & a stranger comes & sits next to you, stare straight ahead & say "Did you bring the money?"
* Interviewer: "So tell me about yourself" Me: "I'd rather not … I kinda want this job."
* When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint & ask "Why, what did you hear?"
* When I say "the other day" I could be referring to any time between yesterday & 15 years ago.
* I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
* I hate when a couple argue in public & I don't hear the beginning. I don't know whose side I'm on.
* Sometimes someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race & changes you forever... we call these people cops.

HOUSE OF TRAVEL
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NEW ZEALAND'S MOST AWARDED TRAVEL GROUP

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