



Newsletter

April 2020

PRESIDENT'S POST by Clive Dyson

Hi Folks,

Who would have guessed that this newsletter would have to be written while I'm being locked down. Yes, this situation has gripped not only the country but the whole world and my heart goes out to all who've lost loved ones, jobs, business or finances and are facing pretty bleak circumstances.

They say that every cloud has a silver lining. It's hard to see sometimes, but on social media there is some new talent appearing and humorous imagination being shown. There are more people out walking, neighbours getting together two metres apart in the street for coffee and chat, teddybears in the windows and cheery smiles from passers by. All this is really uplifting.

Even though SeniorNet has shut its doors for meetings and classes, some activity is still going ahead online. We had a Mac interest group with 15 people just after the shutdown, using Zoom, a free video conferencing app. By the time you read this we will have had a committee meeting using Zoom. I have put out an online course on Youtube for members who would like to learn how to use Pages on iPad. Just let me know and I'll send you the details.

This lockdown has caused us to look at different ways of continuing to do what we do so again this cloud has a silver lining. This newsletter is another way that we can keep up contact with you all. So until we can meet again face to face in groups and meetings, stay safe, follow the guidelines and I look forward to seeing you all in the not too distant future.

Regards, *Clive*



We all need a few giggles these days -

we think you'll relate to

this video clip regarding

New Technology. Click on the YouTube link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAG39jKi0II>



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Notes from the online April Committee Meeting

(held using Zoom remote meeting software).

- * A request has been made of the Motueka Ward of Tasman Council to improve road markings and signs to display the one-way traffic system at the 42 Pah Street car park.
- * Electricity savings are being made by the switching off of all unneeded appliances, hot water tank etc, at our SeniorNet Rooms.
- * While some of our Term 1 courses ran per schedule others were cancelled due to Covid-19, another course was completed as an online course via Zoom, thanks to Clive's efforts.
- * Membership forms have been updated to reflect current offerings, and the trifold brochure has been similarly refreshed and updated.
- * Our Secretary Gail Riddell has written to the National Federation CEO in Wellington to ask if affiliation fees might be waived to compensate for our lack of income from courses over Term 2.
- * While Term 2 coursework is severely affected by our current Level 4 Lockdown, we are still looking into other ways of delivering courses and support for our Membership, such as continuing to offer Help and Support via phone or online twice a month, (see Page 4 for more info about this), along with:
- * Technical tips and current awareness articles on IT topics will continue to be provided in our monthly newsletter
- * in addition we propose a regular email with links to online tutorials for continued learning during lockdown



A Message about Courses and Learning from Sandra Louise Price, Course Co-Ordinator

We're very sorry that the term 1 courses were cut short and very little prospect of anything being run during term two. On the bright side, our very innovative president, Clive, is converting his courses and interest groups to virtual sessions using the Zoom software. This of course takes a lot of time and effort, so thank you very much to Clive.

The committee held a virtual April meeting using Zoom, and discussed whether more courses may be offered using this interface

Another way you can keep on learning even during our recess is to check in to some free online courses on the internet. You can find a link to some of these on our website by selecting Online Learning under the Courses tab. <https://seniornetmotueka.org.nz/online-learning/> Choose from TECHBOOMERS (all sorts of technical topics), DIGITAL LEARN (sessions on basic internet searching, finding videos on YouTube, Internet privacy etc), WINDOWS10 FORUM and GCF LEARNFREE (many of you will be familiar with the huge range of tutorials here from Social media apps, Cloud services, using Email etc).

The advantages of online learning are that you can work at your own pace, pick up a little section when you have time, also drink a glass of wine to help you enjoy yourself while you study!!

Since we cannot go out for retail therapy at the moment, many of you may be trying out shopping on the internet. So we are highlighting this month a little tutorial on staying safe while you go online shopping <https://youtu.be/el3N6qQjr-I>

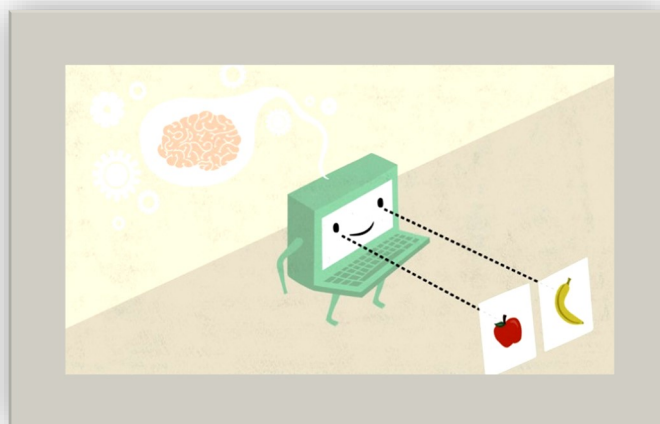


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What is machine learning?

As technology continues to evolve and the world's population continues to grow, so does the amount of data being generated.

Collecting, sorting, and analyzing this data can be a pretty time-consuming task. However, that's all beginning to change with the emergence of **machine learning**, a type of computer science that allows computer programs to **learn and improve on their own**.



➔➔ Use this link see examples of how machine learning is used today. <https://youtu.be/QghjaS0WQQU>

How does it work?

In the past, computers were only able to do what we programmed them to do. But with machine learning, we can create software that learns in a similar way to humans: It **gains knowledge based on past experience**. Instead of having to constantly update the code of this software, it's able to improve its own performance as time goes by.

Machine learning can get pretty complicated, but here's how it works on a basic level. Let's say we want a program that can tell the difference between pictures of apples and bananas. We first give it a few labeled examples of each, and it looks for patterns in both fruits and remembers them. It then uses these memories to look at unlabeled pictures of apples and bananas to determine what they are without outside help.

➔➔ Use the link for a more in-depth look at how machine learning works. https://youtu.be/f_uwKZIAeM0

How is machine learning used?

Whether or not you realize it, you probably use machine learning on a daily basis, or are at least aware of technologies that use it. Below is a list of some examples found in popular apps and devices:

Google uses machine learning to improve the accuracy of its search results.

Your **Facebook** feed is programmed to show you posts that are catered to your interests and past social media behavior. The recommendations **Netflix** gives you are generated by machine learning.

Self-driving cars track their surrounding objects and use this data to improve their driving abilities.

Digital assistants use machine learning to improve their speech recognition technology.

The medical industry is also experimenting with a variety of applications, including **predicting life spans**, **organizing patient data**, and even **diagnosing certain diseases**. By gathering data like X-rays, genetic profiles, and blood tests, computers may be able to diagnose specific ailments more quickly and confidently.

The business world has begun to incorporate machine learning into its practices as well. Some companies are already using **chatbots** with machine learning capabilities to improve their customer service functions. There's also the potential for sorting incoming support tickets for a faster response rate, as well as speeding up hiring processes by evaluating applications and resumes at a faster pace.

Other parties are simply experimenting with machine learning to see what they can make. You may have heard the term **neural network** thrown around recently; this is a specific type of machine learning technology that individuals have used to create interesting projects like the popular **Deep Dream** and **computer-generated recipe names**.

The future of machine learning

While these numerous advances seem positive, there's also a rising concern as to whether machine learning will **eliminate jobs**. This depends on the industry, but it does have the potential to get rid of or dramatically change a variety of jobs, including drivers, bankers, and potentially even certain doctors.

Others have voiced concerns about the ethics of machine learning and how it has the potential to **invade your privacy**. For example, it wouldn't be difficult for someone to create a program that gathers your texts or instant messages and then poses as you in a conversation with someone else. While machine learning can be a very powerful tool, it's important to be aware of its possible negative effects as well.

[Source+ <https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/thenow/>]

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Normally too busy, or unavailable on a Monday? Look at this !



Help and Support Sessions can still happen during Lockdown.

While we cannot provide these sessions in person at our Clubrooms under Lockdown, we are still however able to offer the following Help and Support online or by phone, on the 3rd and 4th Mondays of each month.

For MAC and IOS/Apple, **Monday April 20th**—contact Clive Dyson on 03 929 8002 or clivedyson.nz@gmail.com or John Harrison on 03 528 7853 or lavoca1@kinect.co.nz

For PC and Android, **Monday April 27th**— for Windows/PC, contact Dave Samways on 03 528 7257 or dsamways88@gmail.com. For Android, TBA.



Our Motueka Library e-Books Course, March 17th :



We were most fortunate to have Janine Gillions conduct this course for us, and only just in time before Level 4 Lockdown would have stopped it...it was therefore amazingly timely.

The course was well attended, as you can see. And our attendees were so keen once they got underway, they could barely drag themselves away from their devices for a cuppa !

Not only was it enlightening to learn about how easy it is to use 'Libby' (the little app pictured above, produced by Overdrive) for borrowing the entire range of books from the Library, we also learned how to make excellent use of their other very useful apps, such as BorrowBox, Overdrive, Wheelers e-Platform, and PressReader among others (check the small icons below, you will find them in your app store).

These can be used for reading books, audiobooks, and accessing newspapers and magazines from all around the world, and mostly for free !

FOOTNOTE: At this time, for anyone who would like to start using e-books from the Library, here are the two links you'll need to do so. Firstly you will need your library card and pin number. If you don't already have one, you can now obtain this online while the Libraries are closed, please use this link:

<http://www.tasmanlibraries.govt.nz/my-library/membership/join-the-library/>



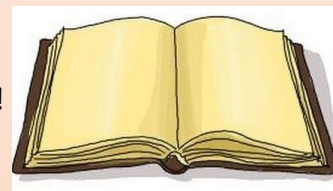
Then once you have your Library card and pin, simply follow the steps on this page of the Library website:

<http://www.tasmanlibraries.govt.nz/e-library/>



Use the link 'Overdrive' which will take you to the info about using the Libby app. Download Libby from your usual app store, and get started.

Happy Reading!



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An affordable solution to any computer problem

Our very good friends at Affordable Computers have sent us this message:

Although the shop is closed we can still help with most computer & internet problems.

We can assist remotely via the phone or remote access to your computer.

Also, supply of printer inks & toners, cables & other consumables are now allowed in many circumstances. If you should require our services call us on 03 5286535, leave a message, and we will call you back

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iPPIG Meeting 20th March, by Colin Hooker

Just 6 people turned up for the meeting. We started by watching an old 2 Ronnies video about the blackberry and then a more serious tutorial about avoiding spam by changing to a gmail or icloud address. Clive then spoke about types of video files and described how they are constructed. He said that not all video files could be read on the iPad, but said that the app MovP4 was able to convert video files to MP4.

Colin spoke about Facebook and how he used it to follow his interests. In the discussion that followed Wendy mentioned that she had 3 separate Facebook accounts that she used for different purposes; she said that you just needed a separate email address to set up a new Facebook account.

And finally Barbara tackled the question of how the iPad could help if you were in self-isolation for 14 days. Keeping in contact with friends via Skype and FaceTime, playing games, reading on-line books, learning something new, eg a foreign language, were all things that you could do with your iPad. And if you needed something to help if you felt stressed out, the app Breathing Zone could do the trick.

Colin Hooker



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Smartphones, streaming & social media:

Tech that shapes us. *Adapted from article by Rich Haridy, newatlas.com 5.12.19*

Remember we read Part 1 last month, from [From dumb phones to Smartphones](#). Here below is Part 2, with Part 3 to come next month.

Part 2. Social Media's great social experiment

Where we were ...

In 2010 social media was not new, but its growth was only just signalling how culturally transformative it would become. Facebook, for example, had around 500 million global users, yet Zuckerberg and his team were still figuring out how to commodify the technology. In fact, the company had only turned cash positive in late 2009 after enhancing its advertising models.

Where we are ...

The story of social media across the 2010s is one underpinned by extraordinary and overwhelming growth. By the end of 2019 Facebook is still easily the most dominant platform with nearly 2.5 billion users. However, the story of the last 10 years has been one of Facebook taking over the world, and then beginning to fall apart.

While Facebook now owns many of its competitors, such as Instagram and WhatsApp, user growth on the platform has stagnated since 2017.

The younger demographic have been leaving Facebook, with their social media use spread across different platforms e.g Instagram, Snapchat, Tik Tok and YouTube.

The most significant problem faced by social media platforms in 2019 is the realisation by users that their personal data is being harvested by these companies for profit. Across the 2010s social media companies struggled to find a way to profit from their platforms. The solution turned out to be advertising, but not as we knew it. Instead, we were treated to the birth of super-powered, targeted advertising, where an advertiser could aim its promotions with unprecedented precision at exactly the type of person it wanted.

Now, at the dawn of the 2020s, Mark Zuckerberg is regularly facing US congress, explaining why his mega-company should not be subjected to extensive new regulations. Did nefarious behaviour on Facebook actually influence the course of the 2016 US Presidential election? We may never know for sure but it is becoming increasingly clear that social media platforms can effortlessly amplify the spread of misinformation, from anti-vaccine fake science to stoking divisions between the left and right.

Where are we going ...

With some prominent 2020 US Presidential candidates campaigning on the back of policies determined to break up big tech monopolies such as Facebook, the tide has turned on some of the defining social media brands from the past decade.

But make no mistake, platforms such as Facebook and Twitter are not going anywhere. Instead, the next decade will offer a more fragmented assortment of platforms, serving niche communities and different demographics. Facebook, a platform with an ageing demographic, may turn into the senior citizen of the social media community. New platforms will rise, old ones will fall.

The evolution of smartphone technology will offer new iterations on old ideas of social media. How does

Twitter work if you're wearing a set of Apple's prospective AR glasses?

What happens to Instagram when we get smart contact lenses with the ability to take instant photographs at the literal blink of an eye?



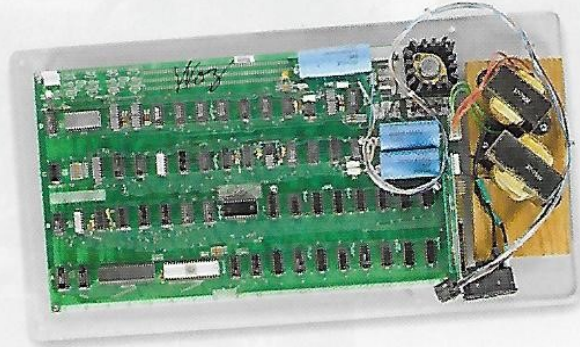
ALSO LOOK OUT FOR...

Nobody was more bullish on the commercial potential of the Apple-1 than Steve Jobs, but even the man hailed as a visionary could not have predicted that examples of his company's first product would one day change hands for hundreds of thousands of dollars. The Apple-1, designed by Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, was comically underpowered by today's standards but, as the first pre-assembled personal computer to come to market, it was a landmark achievement.

It was launched in 1976 and sold briskly at a retail price of \$666.66 (\$3000 in today's money) but, because Wozniak was the only person who could provide tech support to Apple-1 users, customers were encouraged to trade their Apple-1 for an Apple II when the latter became available in '77. The returned computers were destroyed, and others were discarded by their owners in the decades that followed, meaning that today only 74 Apple-1s are known to exist.

These are obsessively documented in an online registry, as though they were 250 GTOs, and a glance at the records reveals this example to have belonged to Elmer Baum, an early Apple employee who helped to bankroll production. Baum died in 1993 but his old machine lives on in working condition. It's signed by 'Woz' and Bonhams expects it to bring \$200,000-300,000 when it is auctioned in New York on 4 December.

bonhams.com



MAC Interest Group, 28th February



On the 28th February we had our Mac Interest group. It was held online with the use of Zoom a free video conferencing App. We had fifteen members including two from the Nelson SeniorNet Learning Centre. So distance is no limit.

We started off the meeting by showing a Youtube video of the Coronavirus Rhapsody based on the Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen, if you're interested - (https://youtu.be/lr_tEdQvFcc)

The rest of the time was spent in coming to terms and learning about Zoom and all that it has to offer. The meeting lasted about an hour and twenty minutes and the members seemed to enjoy talking to one another and finding uses for this app.

We hope to run another Zoom Mac Interest group on Friday 24th April.

Clive Dyson

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