



# Newsletter

**June 2020** 

# A Word from your President

# Hi Folks

It is good to know that after weeks of restriction in levels 4,3,2 we are now in level one. While we still have to take hygienic precautions and keep a note of where we have been for contact tracing reasons, life can return to some semblance of normality.

# Seniornet & Level 1

What does this mean for us at Seniornet? It means that Help & Support will be face to face. 9.30 - 11.30 am. Next Monday will be Mac and ios Help & Support and the following Monday will be Windows and Android.

There will be a members meeting on 6th July complete with cups of tea & coffee and a speaker. All cutlery and crockery will be thoroughly washed before the meeting so it is hygienic. Classes will start in term three which begins on 20th July.

## The Devices we use

It has been some time since the Membership details have been updated. People will have moved from desktops to laptops or to tablets, and the devices against your name in the membership list may be hopelessly out of date. If you have changed your device or not told us what device(s) you use, it would be appreciated if you would contact Maureen Hutton our membership secretary and let her know. Her email is ahutton440@gmail.com .

# Zoom online workshops

During the lockdown, Zoom has played an important part in keeping things going with the Mac Interest Group holding their monthly meetings and some workshops being held. Are Zoom online workshops something we should keep going alongside face to face classes or is it something that has served it's purpose. What are your thoughts as a member?



Please let me or any member of the committee know.

Okay, so now we can hopefully get cracking and use the rest of the year to improve our skills and knowledge of technology by attending classes & workshops and building up the club once again.

Till next time take care,

Kind regards

Clive

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



# **Dates for your Diary!!**

(all at the rooms unless separately advised)

# **MEMBERS' MEETING:**

Mon 6th July 10-12: Fascinating guest speaker to be confirmed HELP & SUPPORT SESSIONS:

IOS & Apple Mon 15th June & 20th July 9.30-11.30 PC & Android Mon 22nd June & 27th July 9.30-11.30 INTEREST GROUPS:

Countries & Cultures (CCIG) Thurs 9th and 16th July 2.30
Digital Photography (DIG) Fri 3rd July 2.30
Genealogy (GIG) Fri 10th July 2.30 & Tues 28th July 7.30pm
iPad & iPhone (IPPIG) Thurs 19th June & 17th July 2.30
Mac (MIG) Fri 26th June & 24th July 2.30

N.B. Android Devices (ADUG) & Modern Media (MMG) are in recess for 3 months unless an interim convenor is found.



#### **GOOD OPPORTUNITY!**

You will see from the diary dates on the left that our Modern Media Group is in recess.

BUT Motueka members interested in the subject can join the Nelson Zoom media group in the meantime – see details of the topic for June below.

Bernhard will restart the Motueka MMG later in the year.

## THREE COURSES IN JUNE BEING HELD VIA ZOOM

**16 Ways to save money on your funeral**: June 17th - 10am. Ways to keep the cost of a funeral down and how to take away some of the stress for those left behind by knowing what your final wishes are. No charge

How to make Colouring in Pages for children and adults, with free software: June 23rd 2.30pm This is especially suitable for people who can't "even draw a straight line". No need to download any software and suitable for all platforms. No charge.

TO ENROL in the 2 courses above: contact Clive on 03 929 8002 or clivedyson.nz@gmail.com

**From phone to screen—video editing**: June 24th—2-4pm. This is the topic of Nelson's Media Interest Group for June and Motueka members are invited to join in.

TO ENROL in the session above: contact Roger Pittman on 021 708309 or randipittman@gmail.com



# Mac Interest Group report

The Mac Interest group held it's meeting by Zoom on 22nd May and was attended by 17 members:

8 from Motueka, 8 from Nelson and 1 from Marlborough Sounds.

It was a good session. We started off with a humorous video of Mr Bean showing his dramatic skills playing an imaginary drum kit. Roger, Hillary and Helen from the Nelson learning centre led a session on Podcasting: what it is and how to do it, and they were willing to answer questions.

We also looked at POP & IMAP and what they are, and we looked at various aspects of Apple Mail: Bulk deletions of emails and the Apple Rules feature.

There was time for help with computer problems and members contributed toward helping others

Clive Dyson

# DO YOU HAVE A SPARE COMPUTER?



Colin Hooker has a friend who is on the sickness benefit and who has been using an old computer for playing games. This old computer has finally given up the ghost.

Has anyone got a computer (working) that they no longer need?

If so, please phone Colin on 5288240 to arrange a price and collection. Thanks.



# **LINUX**

Do you have knowledge about the Linux operating system to share? Or would you be interested in a course on this? We already have one member enquiry about it so perhaps this could be a course for term 3.

Please contact Sandra on 0212 645233

In the meantime you will find a mini tutorial on Linux MINT linked from the "Online learning" section of our SeniorNet website:

https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/linux-mint-resources/linux-mint-resources/l/



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# Understanding virtual reality & augmented reality

[continued on page 6...]



We spend a lot of time looking at screens these days. Computers, smartphones, and televisions have all become a big part of our lives; they're how we get a lot of our news, use social media, watch movies, and much more.

Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) are two technologies that are changing the way we use screens, creating new and exciting interactive experiences.

Virtual reality uses a headset to place you in a computer-generated world that you can explore.

Augmented reality, on the other hand, is a bit different. Instead of transporting you to a virtual world, it takes digital images and layers them on the real world around you through the use of either a clear visor or smartphone.

With virtual reality, you could explore an underwater environment. With augmented reality, you could see fish swimming through the world around you.

Watch this video to learn about virtual reality and augmented reality: https://youtu.be/vz0UUVDt2ps [copy and paste the link into your browser]

#### Virtual reality

Virtual reality immerses you in a virtual world through the use of a **headset** with some type of screen displaying a virtual environment. These headsets also use a technology called **head tracking**, which allows you to look around the environment by **physically moving your head**. The display will follow whichever direction you move, giving you a 360-degree view of the virtual environment.

## Types of VR devices

At the moment, there are two major types of headsets. Both have their pros and cons, which you'll want to consider if you're looking to purchase one.

The first type has a **screen built in to the headset**. These devices connect to a computer and require a pretty powerful system to operate smoothly. They have great graphics and perform well, but they're also **pretty expensive**, ranging from about \$400 to \$800. A few popular examples of these include the **Oculus Rift**, the **Vive**, and the **PlayStation VR**, which connects to the PlayStation 4 game console. Some of these devices come with **handheld controllers** that track your hands' movements as well, providing for a more interactive experience.



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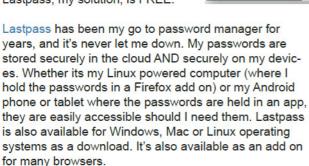
# **Password Purgatory**

ne of the great bugbears of our tech toys is passwords. You need a password for almost every service and app. Whether it's a word, phrase or pin number, the ubiquitous password is the security device most often used.

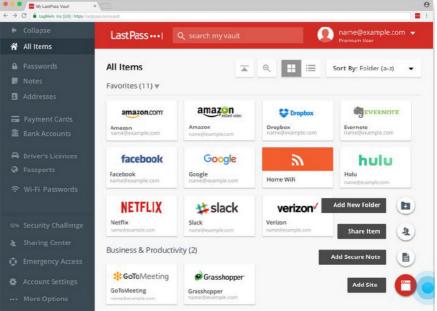
Some modern appliances are starting to use biometrics (facial, fingerprints, retinal scans etc) but these are not without their detractors. So it looks like passwords will be with us for some while yet.

I use a password manager, and there are 111 passwords for various services and programmes stored in my password vault.

Lastpass, my solution, is FREE.



I only have to remember one (1) login/password combo to unlock my vault.



Lastpass is NOT an open source product, but has been around long enough to prove it's reliable and secure. It encrypts and decrypts all the passwords on the local device (my computer) so passwords could not be compromised even if they could be lifted in an encrypted form from the cloud.

By having the passwords stored in the cloud, new or changed passwords are available to me as soon as I start another device, and log in to the internet.

If you are interested in seeing this in action please tell us and I will run a workshop.

[Source = article by Peter Andersen in a Hutt City SeniorNet newsletter]



# HOUSE OF TRAVEL

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# **Google Smart Lock**

[Adapted from an article by JR Raphael at computerworld.com 26 MARCH 2020]



How many times a day do you pick up your phone to look at something? Unless you live in the tundra or have far more self-control than most, the answer probably falls somewhere between "quite a few" and "more than any sane person could count." Assuming you keep your device properly secured, that means you're doing an awful lot of unlocking — be it with your face, your fingerprint, or the code you tap or swipe onto your screen. Security's important, but goodness gracious, it can be a hassle. Thankfully, there's a better way.

Google Smart Lock provides a variety of options for keeping your Android phone unlocked in preapproved, known-to-be -safe circumstances. It's an incredibly useful feature that lets you create a sensible balance between security and convenience.

#### The options

To activate Google Smart Lock on Android, you'll first need to have a PIN, pattern, or password set for your phone (which you should already have).

Open the Security section of your phone's settings.

Tap "Smart Lock."

On Android phones where the manufacturer has made modifications to the operating system, the Smart Lock section may be located in a different area of the device's settings. On Samsung phones, for instance, first open the Lock Screen section of your phone's settings.

You'll be prompted to put in your PIN, pattern, or password — and you'll then see a list of available choices:

On-body detection: Fire up this option, and your phone will remain unlocked whenever you're holding or carrying it — so long as you've already unlocked it once. Anytime your phone is set down or not in motion for more than a moment, it'll require authentication again. ...continued on p 7

#### DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

**Yandex.com** is a Russian search portal, offering many similar products and services as Google. It is the **dominant search engine in Russia**. It offers results in a logical format, replete with favicons (shortcut icons).



**Kensaq.com** is a quite **new American search engine**. It seems quick, relevant, & offers "related search" suggestions on the side of the screen.





# Understanding virtual reality & augmented reality

[...continued from page 3]

The other type of headset houses your phone and uses its screen as the display. These don't require a computer and run completely off of apps on your smartphone. The graphics and performance levels on these headsets aren't quite as good as those with a built-in screen, but they do tend to be much cheaper. Some popular examples include Google Cardboard and the Gear VR.

# <u>Augmented reality</u>



Augmented reality allows you to see the world around you with digital images layered on top of it. There are currently a couple of AR headsets in development, including the Microsoft HoloLens and the Magic Leap, but none are available for purchase to the general public.

However, augmented reality can also be used on devices like smartphones and laptops without the use of a headset. There are a variety of apps that use AR, including some that allow you to translate text using your camera, identify stars in the sky, and even see how your garden would look with

different plants. You may have even previously used AR without realizing it, while playing a game like **Pokemon Go** or using filters on Snapchat.

Use this link to see how augmented reality could be applied in the near future. https://youtu.be/lc\_M6WoRZ7k [copy and paste the link into your browser]

Both VR and AR technologies are growing at a pretty rapid pace. Many experts predict that they'll continue to become more and more popular in the near future. As technology becomes more advanced, it'll be exciting to see how they'll be applied to both business and everyday life!



[Source+ <a href="https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/thenow/">https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/thenow/</a>]

# POINTS FROM THE JUNE 8 COMMITTEE MEETING



<u>Treasurer's report</u>—noted lack of income as we have run no classes or interest groups during lockdown. Our running costs are about \$400 per month and we have upcoming bills for Liability & Building insurance & TDC licence to occupy.

Education —very little use during lockdown of virtual help & support or calls/emails to tutors on specific topics. However, Clive has attracted good interest in courses delivered via Zoom with enrolments from Marlborough Sounds, Nelson, Wanaka SeniorNets as well as our own Motueka members. After discussion it was agreed that Help & Support will start again at the rooms from mid-June, and interest groups to follow. (See listing of dates on page 1). With the easing of restrictions, a tutor meeting will be held at the beginning of July to plan courses for term 3. The rooms will be given a full cleaning prior to reopening.

Membership—we currently have 199 members.

Publicity - advertisements in the local press will recommence end of June.

Monthly members' meetings—these will start again from 6th July.

The next committee meeting will shift from Zoom delivery to a normal face to face one at the rooms.



#### 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



SeniorNet Motueka est. 1998

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#### **CONTACT EMAIL:**

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# HOT TIPS ON INTERNET SEARCHING THAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW

Go to your preferred search engine (Bing, Duckduckgo, Google, Dothop, Yahoo, etc)

- To <u>search within a particular website</u>, type your keyword or phrase in the search box, followed by a colon and the site's url (or address) e.g. <u>brexit</u>: <u>www.stuff.co.nz</u>
- 2. If you find a good webpage and you want to <u>find more that</u> <u>are similar</u>, you can search "sideways" by typing in related, followed by a colon and the webpage address e.g. related: alnwickgarden.com
- 3. In the past you have probably received irrelevant hits when you searched the web, or been swamped with too much? Try this brilliant method to <u>focus results by searching only in the title of the webpage</u>. Type intitle followed by a colon and your search terms e.g. intitle: highlights of prague

# | GOOGLE SMART LOCK ...continued from p 5

| Trusted places: Perhaps the most useful Google Smart Lock element, this option allows you to set specific locations — by business name, street address, or manual map placement — at which your phone will never put up a lock screen or require authentication. You'll obviously want to be selective about what places you choose, but configuring this to recognize somewhere like your home can be useful.

Trusted devices: Having Google Smart Lock recognize a Bluetooth pairing, empowers you to tell your phone to skip the lock screen anytime it's connected to a specific Bluetooth device — say, your car's audio system or your gym headphones — when you know the phone will always be in your control.

| Trusted face: This final option is only available on older Android phones — and even then, you may not want to use it. Android's 2011-era facial recognition system was never entirely consistent, reliable, or secure. It's been replaced with more modern and effective face unlocking mechanisms that exist as their own standalone entities and are not connected with Smart Lock.

With the other Smart Lock options, though, you can achieve a sensible balance of security and convenience — and at the end of the day, that's only going to help you keep your information safe.





