

Newsletter

A Few Words from our President, Clive Dyson:

On July 27th four of us, Sandra, Kay, Colin Hope and myself, attended the SeniorNet TOTS meeting (Top of the South) held in the Foresters Cafe in the Rai Valley. There were about 25 people there representing the Motueka, Nelson, Marlborough Sounds and Golden Bay Learning Centres. It was a chance for us to meet in person, Heather Newell, (pictured below) who is the new CEO of the SeniorNet Federation.

After we all introduced ourselves and our Centres, Heather spoke about the situation of the Federation in regards to the Google sponsorship. Google want SeniorNet NZ to run a pilot program of a virtual Learning Centre offering about 30 minute classes. Each class to be made up of a maximum of 5 people from around the country. This pilot is due to start on the 21st of September and run through to the end of the year, using current members of the SeniorNet. She is at present looking for tutors, and topics which can be taught in those 30 minute slots and would like this by the 1st of September. If successful, the Virtual learning centre will go live to the public next year and it is hoped that it will bring people into physical learning centres.

SNAP (SeniorNet Administration Program) was also discussed and we found out that a lot of the information that we had been asked to send in the past, was now no longer relevant as we were no longer receiving a Tertiary Education Grant from the Government. The Ryman Village sponsorship has been canned as it was decided that the commitment required by them of the SeniorNet centres was too much and would actually cost more than the sponsorship funds forthcoming.

There was plenty of discussion on a wide range of topics. This was all enhanced by the magnificent lunch provided by the Marlborough people. It is planned to hold next year's TOTS meeting in Motueka, probably about February /March.

Well, that's all from me for now so Take Care and keep warm

Clive



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Dates for your Diary:

PLEASE NOTE:

Several popular classes planned for September have had to be cancelled until such time as we can safely hold them with sufficient social distancing.

Below are classes to be held **at the time of publishing** however due to Covid-19 uncertainties PLEASE CHECK with your tutor for enrolled classes before attending..

Tue Sept 1st :
Linux Interest Group,
2:30—4:30

Thu Sept 3rd:
Greeting Cards with LibreOffice
10am—12noon

Fri Sept 4th:
Digital Photography Interest Group
2:30—4:30

Mon Sept 7th:
Members Meeting 10am, Guest Speak-

ers (2!) are our own Jean Wolff about her role for St Johns, plus a short visit from Rose Renton, re the upcoming referendum

Thu Sept 10th and Thu Sept 17th:
Countries and Cultures Interest Group
Parts 1 and 2, both at 2:30—4:30

Fri Sept 18th:
iPad&iPhone Interest Group 2:30— 4:30

Mon Sept 21st
Help and Support/iOS and Apple
9:30—11:30

Fri 25th Sept
MAC Interest Group 2:30—4:30

Mon 28th Sept
Help and Support/PC and Android
9:30—11:30

Tue 29th Sept
Genealogy Interest Group 7:30pm

MAC Interest Group Meeting



Clive confirms there are no meeting notes this month as we enjoyed them already in last month's newsletter (due to the meeting time slot being moved about last month and the group having met twice in that time). Things are back to normal for September though, (well at least we hope so!) and the group will meet again on Sept 25th. All being well.

Notes from the August Committee Meeting:

→ Held Monday August 10th, the Committee is glad to report that the road signage for our entry and exit areas have been improved with the addition of two new 'No Entry/No Exit' signs installed, hoping to remedy traffic flow.

→ It was noted there are some Committee roles being vacated at the end of this financial year—some by folk who've given us all many years of valued contribution. Watch this space for more news of the upcoming vacancies—so you can be ready to volunteer a little of your time. We Need You !

→ Our Treasurer Allan provided statements of receipt and payments, noting our annual insurance bill is coming due shortly, - Allan is communicating with Toy Library for their portion.

→ In light of our meeting with the SeniorNet Federation CEO at the Top of the South Meeting (see Clive's President's Post) some discussion took place regarding the best ways in which SNAP could be utilized and maximized for both us and the Federation.

→ Enrolments for our Term 3 programme have been uneven with some being full and others needing to be cancelled due to lack of interest. Careful note is being taken of where demand lies so that we can tailor future programmes to meet demand.

→ We've improved the ease-of-use for all 3 large screen monitors to be in use when speakers are using an on-screen presentation—so that all in the room can easily view the content on any of 3 screens.

→ Membership currently stands at 203 members, with 2 new members pending.

Eat those veggies or I'll change the wi-fi password.



iPPIG Interest Group meeting July 2020,

Meeting Notes from Peter Beaumont

We commenced the meeting with 22 people enjoying the usual video, this time showing you can read newspapers with an iPad but it is an unsuitable device for swatting a fly!



Next Helen spoke about using the Files app for storing your documents. Files from basic Apple apps are automatically stored under Files, and within the Files app there are options for storing files between your iPad, and other data storage areas such as iCloud, Google, Dropbox.

Sandra spoke to us about virtual travel using the website ricksteves.com. This site is Seattle based and wants to make Americans less fearful about travel. There is an excellent selection of half hour videos hosted by Rick Steves covering mainly European countries. Sandra said these can be excellent videos to be watched over lunch and to pick up valued travel tips.

Colin introduced us to Arte, an app (and European culture TV channel) that has on demand magazine shows, concerts, documentaries and more (most of the programmes are French with English subtitles), and Trish talked about Apps Gone Free - an app that seems to come and go on the app store - and at the top of the app each day there are readers' comments. Every day this App offers different apps for free.

Sandra spoke about Whatsapp for iPads - called Whatspad chat. You need to install this utilising the assistance of your phone, but this iPad app gives you a better screen size and allows you to send attachments. Another app, Kanopy allows you to stream courses, documentaries, movies etc through your local library at no cost, (up to 10 per month). You can download the app then log in using your library card. Ask the library for your password if you need to.

Lastly Peter showed how you can set up a personalised emoji representing yourself in iMessage. A fun image to include in your iMessages!



Demand has soared for virtual house tours

With movements restricted thanks to Covid-19, Estate Agents have found there is huge demand from potential buyers for virtual tours of houses for sale.

In countries other than NZ where those wishing to buy homes today cannot move around freely to view them, Estate Agents are turning to technology to overcome such hurdles, and its possible that these Covid limitations will soon start to dictate the future of home viewings.

Its been normal for an estate agent to take a client for say an hour or more to view as many potential properties as might fit the bill, driving from one to another, and often spending your valued time taking you around some that don't really meet your needs.

But with the tools now widely available for virtual reality (VR) viewings to happen, those miles spent driving around on your property search may soon become a thing of the past. Or at least, you may be able to save many driving miles by only visiting your 'top picks' once you've carried out virtual reality visits on the many from your own living room, in order to arrive at the few that make your shortlist.

In the UK mega online-property-lister Zoopla says that already 8% of its listings offer a VR tour option to buyers, but they expect this to carry on increasing. The growing adoption of VR viewings also makes life greatly easier for client moving internationally, and will eventually be treated just like other products re online shopping.

Presently, it's a bit like using Google's Street View...and house hunters often need to use their own VR headsets. But some realtors are sending buyers loaner headsets, as its then a simple process to take yourself around the potential property room by room for a truly immersive and good old look-around...all from the comfort of your own armchair.

Source: Padraig Belton, BBC Tech and Business Reporter



I just sneezed
next to my
computer and
the anti-virus
popped up.

Cool Funny Quotes.com

Digital Photography (DIG) Meeting Notes, from Maureen Hutton

Only a small group today but we showed more photos from lockdown and one or two portraits (this month's theme) Heather Adams showed us a couple of her bike treks which she had put into a slide show. All very good. Heather has also given us an idea for next month's theme.

Five photos - 1st one has one subject, 2nd one has two subjects, 3rd one has 3 subjects, 4th one has 4 and 5th one has 5. The subjects should be different i.e. one boat, then two cats, then three trees etc. etc., Your Choice. Let your imagination go wild.

One of our group Mary North lives in Nelson and she has given us an invitation to go to a Nelson SN DIG meeting—possibly end of September. I'll keep you advised.

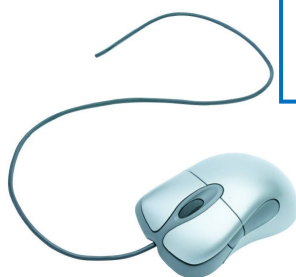
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A Cautionary Tale, from our own Anton Petre

FACEBOOK is a paradise for scammers. And they make \$100,000's from it. Send for one of the products advertised on Facebook, and the odds are high that you will see neither the product, nor the return of your money. And if you have used a credit card, you will rightly wonder just to whom you'll have given your credit card details, and whether it would be best to cancel the card and get another.

Facebook has 1.75 BILLION users visiting it every day. That is 175,000,000,000. Work it out...if you can cheat just a million of them out of just \$10, how well are you doing? Thus a Facebook scammer can easily earn millions of dollars in a very short time. They are paying Facebook for their advertising. Facebook plainly does not do much checking and is also making vast amounts of money from scam adverts.

It works like this: you see a very detailed and professional looking advertisement for a product, quite possibly using the name of a well-known company. The price looks a bargain. They even take Paypal, which ought to be safe, right?

So you buy the product and arrange the payment. The product never arrives...or you get a useless stand-in for it. You can't get your money back because you have waited too long, and because maybe they did send SOMETHING, even if it was not what you paid for.

For instance, people recently buying a mandolin slicer for around \$20 – and the advertisement looked excellent --- got either a simple hand grater worth about \$2, or nothing at all. There are dozens of examples. How about a pair of nice Ecco men's shoes for \$60? They're more than \$240 here! Turns out the scammers had copied a genuine Ecco advert, but directed the payment to themselves, in Singapore, which must have netted many \$1,000's. Maybe millions.
Cont'd...../

Facebook Scams cont'd....

Buyers thought they were getting a really good looking espresso machine for only \$45 (sold here in NZ for \$400). Buyers got nothing. I could go on. And on! What to do to avoid being scammed?

I'd suggest, for a start, don't buy anything advertised on Facebook. You will usually find these impressive adverts give no clue as to the company behind them, or where in the world it might be based. Very low prices are a big warning flag.



Brand names mean nothing, nor do impressive film sequences and lots of details. Checking the comments will often show dozens complaining and often favourable comments too, probably false: "I need one of these", or "Great product", and so forth. There are some NZ adverts on Facebook, for wine among other things, but these show the company behind the advert, and **should be** OK. Should be. But best to buy from the company website

Buy only from known and identifiable outlets, such as TradeMe, Amazon, eBay. When you do buy anything online, use PayPal or a special credit card with a very low limit – say \$100 or so.

Confession: I've been ripped off at least twice trying to buy from a Facebook advertisement. Those shoes... But I'm one of many thousands. Beware of products advertised on Facebook, many are scams.
--Anton Petre

And as if Anton was being overheard, today the BBC publishes an article reinforcing this topic, called "Dropshipping"—check it out here: <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-53759932>



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*Here's a handful
of useful Mac tips
to help you get
things done from
wherever you are*

Get more done with these Mac tips:

Use do not Disturb:

On your Mac, press the *Option* key and tap the *Notifications* icon in the top right. Its colour changes to light gray, which means Do Not Disturb is activated. Now you'll receive no application notifications until you enable it again

Staying Online:

Suffering from intermittent Internet access? If you use an iPhone as well as a Mac, you can try this. Open Catalina's *System Preferences>Network* and look for the new-to-Catalina *Auto Hotspot* item which will automatically connect your Mac via your iPhone if you have Personal Hotspot running on your smartphone.

Get Gestures:

Working in full-screen mode is even easier when you learn to use trackpad gestures: 1) Slide four fingers on the trackpad left or right to move between spaces. 2) Slide three fingers up to return to Mission Control. 3) Slide two fingers up or down to scroll. 4) Swipe left from the right edge with two fingers to open Notification Centre.

Save Smarter:

Did you know that you can use the Print dialog to speed up the process of saving work into your folders (so long as you want to save it as a PDF)? Open *File>Print*, open the PDF item lower left and scroll down to *Edit Menu...* in the next box tap the *Plus*. In the Finder that then appears, navigate to the folder you want to save items to, click it and hit *Save*.

Get results – fast:

You're using Command-Space to use Spotlight and you've become accustomed to employing this to search the Web. Next time you make a search query, type it in the usual way and then tap *Command-B*. You'll be taken directly to the search result in Safari. Tap *Command-Tab* to return to your previous application.

Share a web page:

The quickest way to share a web page is to type *Command + I* in order to send an email containing the page, or *Command + Shift + I* if you only want to share the URL.

Command-Space:

Command-Space is the most useful Mac tip in the book. Use it to access Spotlight search, where you can search the contents of your Mac, search the Internet, open applications and so much more. Get used to using it and you'll save oodles of time

Source: AppleHolic Jonny Evans , Computerworld 2 June 2020

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The NZ Company helping farmers Robot Dogs !

The days of the humble Kiwi farm dog could soon be numbered.

A US company has created a robot that can navigate even the toughest terrain and even herd sheep.

And thanks to technology developed right here in New Zealand, it can go places no other robot can.

"These robots are far more mature than people think in terms of manoeuvring around physical environments so pretty excited to help especially the agrotech sector in NZ," said David Inggs, chief executive of Kiwi robotics company Rocos. Rocos has partnered with Boston Dynamics to develop a platform that controls the robot from anywhere in the world.



End-of-support date for older Office versions

Microsoft recently reminded customers that starting **Oct. 13th** the company will not support older versions of Office applications connecting to Office 365 and Microsoft 365 services

In a Document dated July 20th, Microsoft listed the applications that **will** be "supported for connecting to Office 365 (and Microsoft 365) services" such as :

- ◆ Exchange Online, SharePoint Online and OneDrive for Business among a few others:
- ◆ Office 365 ProPlus; Microsoft 365 Apps for business, and Office 2019 (and Office 2016, but only the Windows version).

The Office editions left in the cold are those provided with "perpetual" licenses – ones customers paid for once, not repeatedly as for Office or Microsoft 365 subscriptions – including Office 2013 on Windows, which is to receive support until April 11, 2023; Office 2010 for Windows; and Office 2016 for Mac. The last two exhaust general support on Oct. 13. (Mac versions of Office are supported for only five years, rather than the decade Windows' editions receive.)

Although excluding some Office applications from Office 365 service support may seem harsh – especially when those applications are owed years of support – Microsoft softened the blow considerably. "We won't take any active measures to block other versions of the Office client, such as Office 2013, from connecting to Office 365 services, but these older clients may encounter performance or reliability issues over time," the Redmond, Wash. developer stated in the support document.

With support lost more from omission than commission, Microsoft argued that customers "will almost certainly face an increased security risk" and "find themselves out of compliance" rather than be suddenly suspended from accessing, say, OneDrive.

Microsoft has long played with the support of Office applications connecting to Office 365 services. Three years ago, the company said that perpetual-license versions of Office would be able to connect to Microsoft's cloud-based services only during the first half of their 10-year support lifecycle. It set Oct. 13, 2020 as the date when the new policy would take effect.

But in September 2018, Microsoft gave Office 2016 a reprieve, saying that that suite would be able to connect to the services through October 2023.

Office 2019's support for Office and Microsoft 365 services also expires in October 2023.

Source: Gregg Keizer, Senior Report, Computerworld, August 4th 2020

Motueka SeniorNet Committee 2019-2020

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