

Newsletter

April 2021

President's Post

Greetings Everyone!

It is that time of year when the onset of chilly evenings reminds us that winter is just around the corner. Time to sit down with a warming cup of tea or coffee and enjoy some apps you have learnt about at SeniorNet?

Or perhaps you will check out some learning with SeniorHangouts—see details of how to connect on page 4. If you are not free at 10am in the morning to join in the virtual classroom, you can access all the previous sessions. A diverse range of helpful information shared by colleagues—there must be something to tempt you here:

Choose from a 30 minute session on Drones, Zoom for Beginners, Electric Cars, Online Shopping, Apple TV, SIM Cards, Digital Life After Death, Gmail, Image Editing, Making Back-ups Even Unlocking your laptop if you've forgotten your password!!

You will see on page 2 a list of activities for the start of term 2. I encourage you to attend and support these events which our small band of volunteers put a lot of effort into organising for the membership. Note that the 2 new help initiatives we offered in term 1 have been discontinued as there was no interest shown by members—"Group Problem Sharing" on the last Wednesday of the month, and the "Ring a Baking Buddy" trial.

Thank you to members who came along to the TOTS meeting on Monday 12th and "flew the flag" for our learning centre. We met Heather Newell, Grant Sidaway's replacement at the helm of the SeniorNet Federation. She shared with us that each day when she wakes up, she thinks she is in her dream job!! What enthusiasm.

Well, that's all for this month, take care.
Kind regards,

Clive



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Dates for your Diary during May [see website for more details]

Mon May 3rd :

Members' Meeting 10am, Guest Speaker Greg Dykzeul, Manager NBS Motueka

Fri May 7th :

Google Photos 9.30-11.30

Wed May 12th :

Facebook Refresher 12-2

Thu May 13th & Thu May 20th:

Countries and Cultures Interest Group (CCIG): Mauritius, pts 1 & 2 2:30—4:30

Fri May 14th:

Genealogy Interest Group (GIG) 2:30—4:30

Mon May 17th :

Help and Support/all devices 10-11:30

Zoom: setting it up on iPad & iPhone 2.30-4.30

Tues May 18th:

Zoom: setting it up on Android phone & tablet 2.30-4.30

Wed May 19th:

Online banking, presentation by Louise Busson, Manager Westpac Motueka 10-11.30

Zoom: setting it up on a Mac Laptop 2.30-4.30

Thu May 20th :

Zoom: setting up on a Windows Laptop 2.30-4.30

Fri May 21st:

iPad & iPhone Interest Group (iPIIG) 2:30— 4:30

Tues May 25th :

Committee Meeting 10-12

Wed May 26th :

Organising your Photos 9.30— 11:30

Smart TVs & Streaming Services, pt 1 2.30-4.30

Thurs May 27th :

Android Devices User Group (ADUG) 2:30—4:30

Fri May 28th :

SeniorHangouts demo/all devices 12-2

Mac Interest Group (MIG) 2:30—4:30

TOTS—Top of the South Meeting - Motueka 12th April

Monday 12th April at 10am saw 35 members from learning centres across the top of the south converge on Motueka for a day of sharing and discussions. There was also a scrumptious finger food lunch to enjoy, and friendly conversations with some colleagues we'd not seen for a while.

Our guest speaker was national Executive Officer, Heather Newell, who was enthusiastic in her account of the year just gone, sharing her successes but also the areas for doing better. We went away with a real understanding of how the SeniorNet Federation functions, and also "revved up" to try new things.

Each centre talked briefly about what they have been up to during the last year. A common thread was the dwindling membership and the difficulty of finding willing volunteers to run learning activities and to do administrative tasks.

A highlight was a talk via Zoom with the Federation's SeniorHangouts Project Leader, Vinay Karanam. He ran through the outline of the initial Google Hangouts trial which operated during lockdown, how it had been evaluated, and the volume of use so far. It is felt that these 30 minute virtual sessions could be a great source of ideas for face to face learning.

Vinay, Heather, and other members talked about how social they found the SeniorHangouts get togethers and how they have made friends across the country.





We set up a 'Banking Buddy' trial during term 1 to help those members new to internet banking, and to assist especially with using alternatives for banking without a cheque book.

This one-on-one flexible support was envisaged as a special effort to be super helpful. We thank the 3 members who volunteered to be banking buddies: Judy, Ted and Ash. The trial has now ended.

In spite of advertising this service for the last 3 months together with contact phone numbers, there has been disappointingly **zero** take up.

NEWS AND SNIPPETS

- **LOOKING BETTER NOW!!**

You'll be pleased to know that the outside of the SeniorNet rooms is looking a lot smarter. Your committee decided to have a working bee before Easter and tidy the area to the side and rear of the building. We have planted some colourful, hardy nandina shrubs and also spread mulch to discourage weeds.

- **NEVER CARRY CASH?**

If you forget to take cash with you it is difficult to contribute to charity street collections, pay the few dollars needed at quiz nights, pay to enter walkways/sites of interest etc. A small number of you come to SeniorNet with no money and can't pay the \$2 or \$5 fee for joining in with groups and meetings. The committee is investigating the purchase or borrowing/hiring of an Eftpos machine. After a trial period we will decide if we go ahead, and if a 2 tier payment fee needs to be levied to cover costs.

- **SPREADING THE WORD**

We have some tri-fold leaflets advertising our SeniorNet club. Can you help distribute these around the area? Perhaps you go to a gym, belong to a local group, or use a business that would be happy to display some of these leaflets to help grow our membership. Talk to any committee member about this.

Report of April 16th iPPIG meeting

To start the meeting Clive showed us an amusing video he had made of the chairs in the clubroom arranging themselves for a meeting and then putting themselves away again. He used an app called Stop Motion Studio for his film.

We then watched a Macmost tutorial on making your own ringtones using Garage Band.

Peter demonstrated how the Live Photo function made the camera take a series of still photos and how the best photo could then be selected. For example, he chose the one photo of his active grandson where he was actually looking at the camera! Trish then showed examples of slow motion video using the Camera app.

Barbara told us that she had found it possible to forward a text message to another person or copy it to insert into an email, for example. She demonstrated these functions in the Messages app.

The next topic was an app to make paying for car parking easy, Pay My Park. Sandra showed how the app allowed one to pay for parking without having to fight with the new parking meters in Nelson and other cities. The app also makes it possible to make changes to the parking time if one is delayed in returning to the car.

Finally, after a cup of tea, Helen spoke about Instagram, an app for sharing photos amongst friends, family or interested groups. Hashtags are attached to photos to make it possible to search for photos on particular subjects.

As usual we all learned something new from the range of topics discussed.

Colin Hooker



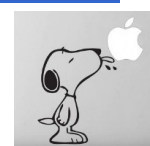
5 Handy Google Fi Features

Google's unusual wireless service, **Google Fi**, has a core proposition : pay only for the data you use, and avoid all the traditional carrier shenanigans. For some people, Fi can be a real cost-cutter *and* hassle-saver. Aside from its most prominently promoted perks — the seamless network-switching, the public Wi-Fi use, the fee-free roaming and hotspot capabilities etc, Fi has some interesting out-of-the-way options that can be really useful.

1. Free Data Only SIMS
2. An Always On VPN
3. Call Forwarding
4. Very Effective Number Blocking
5. Voicemails as Texts

For full article go to www.computerworld.com/article/3325750/google-fi-features.html

Report of 26 March MIG meeting, *Gail Riddell*



There were eight persons in attendance at Mac Interest Group.

Roger Pittman opened with a lesson on dealing with recently experienced common mistakes made by Zoom participants. Examples were having the camera angled so that someone's ceiling was viewed; the person's face being dark because of a bright window behind them; showing family members in the background (the use of a Virtual Background stops this); the person's face being only partially visible.

Gail then gave a power point presentation of all sorts to do with operating a Mac which was later used as the notes which were sent to all participants. Some of the items covered were

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. What is RAM? What is ROM? | 2. How much space do you have on your desktop? |
| 3. Which files are taking up the most room? | 4. Do you like your dock where it is? Can you change it? |
| 5. Placing folders into your dock versus on to your desktop? | 6. Customise your Finder side bar. |
| 7. Using an Activity Monitor. | 8. Do you need to defrag? (What is defrag?) |

Interspersed were questions and responses given by the participants which made for an interesting and at times, an entertaining afternoon.

There is no April meeting so the **next one will be 28 May 2021.**

SENIOR HANGOUTS—LEARNING TIPS WHILE RELAXING ON YOUR SOFA!

A reminder about the Senior Hangouts programme which operates five days a week (Monday to Friday) with one session each day at 10:00am to 10:30am. All Hangout sessions are held via **Zoom** and can be watched on any device. Each day a new speaker on a new topic.

The details for logging are as below:

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/5945680835?pwd=TndGQ2pFNmtPNGNQOVpIT2hyOW80UT09>
Meeting ID: 594 568 0835 Passcode: SH123

To access all the previous session recordings and course materials:

Use the link below through Google Classroom

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MTY0NjUwOTQ1MTg2?cjc=s6ps2dy>

Any SeniorNet member who'd like to deliver a talk on SeniorHangouts is welcome! Please use the link below

<https://calendly.com/seniorhangouts/seniorhangouts-10am-session> to schedule a date and a topic of the talk.

If you have any questions or like to have further details about this program please

email seniorhangouts@gmail.com or call 0800280742.

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Happy Birthday Wikipedia!

 WIKIPEDIA
 The Free Encyclopedia

I was astonished to learn that it is already twenty years ago that Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger started Wikipedia!! A short documentary on the free app ARTE.TV (a European cultural TV channel) called the *Democratisation of Knowledge* provides an interesting history including interviews with several key players.



The Wikipedia information project's aim is to provide free and neutral information managed by its own audience. It started with 20,000 articles in the first year, and is now up to 6,274,000 in English, not counting those in other languages. Amazingly it still functions without advertisements.

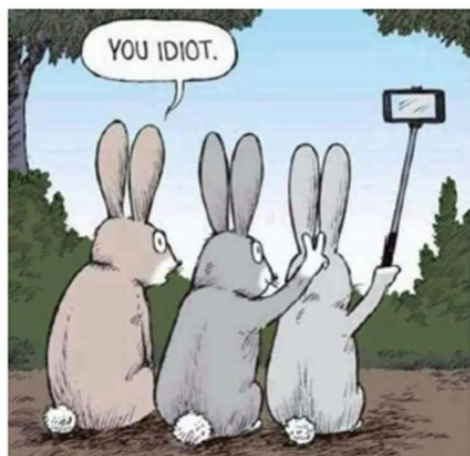
"Wiki" comes from the term *wiki wiki* in Hawaiian meaning fast; and indeed a main requirement of finding information on the web is speed. If we do a search today on almost any topic, we are used to seeing links to articles on Wikipedia. Perhaps at the start we used to dismiss this source as not reliable, the authors were anonymous and the information not verified. BUT there is a requirement for sources to be cited, and in 2007 volunteer "Admins" were appointed to ensure that contributors adhere to quality guidelines. They also have the power to block contributors and articles which are fake, politically extreme, etc.

It remains a product of the people, and provides free access in developing countries to not just searchable information, but sources from special projects e.g. free textbooks (Wikibooks), a species directory (Wikispecies), dictionary of quotes (Wikiquote), etc. Compared to traditional information in printed Encyclopedias and commercially published books, Wikipedia offers a much broader scope, and in as many languages as it has contributors, although it is biased to English language content. It is also biased in other ways—the documentary revealed that 80% of its biographical entries are about white men.

Other criticisms are: 1. The reliance on the western concept of verifiable information—no allowance made for traditional sources of oral transmission on which many cultures rely. 2. The lack of high quality information—a commentator likened Wikipedia articles to

Big Macs—standardised recognisable format, appealing but not substantial.

In an effort to increase the spread of articles on certain topics, a project called *LSG Bot* was instigated; it produced 10 million more articles. Bots trawled the web to find information on set topics in a variety of languages. The venture was abandoned because contributors preferred human involvement—I find this very heart warming!!



Wikipedia is here to stay, and is enriching our collective archive of knowledge. For example after the 9/11 attack people wrote about aspects of the attack not covered by official news media. Similarly a background archive of the 2011 Arab Spring was documented by the people on Wikipedia.

Fast fact—on Wikipedia each day there are 250 changes made per minute!

Sandra Price

Our learning centre
now has
220 members!!

NBS

Community

We believe. We invest.

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Google Nest Hub tracks your sleep

[Adapted from an article by David Nield on newatlas.com March 16, 2021]



The new, second-generation Google Nest Hub has a change from its 2018 predecessor - it can track your sleeping patterns from a bedside table, with no wires or wearables required. Sleep monitoring is made possible by using low-energy radar technology called Soli to track movement wirelessly, so the Nest Hub can see how you're moving and breathing. Other sensors pick up sounds such as coughing and snoring, and record the light and temperature in the room, for a more rounded picture of your sleep.

The unit, as well as tracking your sleep, gives recommendations about how to improve it, which Google says are backed by scientific research and experts in the field. The data can be fed back to Google Fit, and eventually your Fitbit profile (Google now owns Fitbit). On the privacy side, none of your sleep data is used for personalized ads, and recorded audio data is only processed on the device itself. The Sleep Sensing features are apparently going to be "available as a free preview until next year" – so it sounds as though there might eventually be a rolling fee for the more advanced sleep tracking and analysis functions.

As well as touchscreen controls, the new Nest Hub supports gestures for managing playback via Motion Sense tech: hold your hand up to the screen, and playback will stop, for example. Otherwise it's much the same as the previous Google Nest Hub and the Google Nest Hub Max, with Google Assistant at your call to answer questions on everything from the weather forecast to how your schedule is looking. The second-generation Google Nest Hub is available to pre-order now for US\$99.99, with shipping scheduled for March 30th.

Motueka SeniorNet Committee 2020-2021

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SeniorNet Motueka est 1998.

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